



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

1101 E Tudor Rd, MS 121
Anchorage Alaska 99503



SUBSISTENCE FISHING

SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of **50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19**
36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19

Special Action No.:	3-KS-01-14	Issued at:	Bethel, Alaska May 16, 2014
Effective Date:	May 20, 2014 12:01 a.m.		
Expiration Date:	July 18, 2014 11:59 p.m. unless superseded by subsequent Special Action		

EXPLANATION:

Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim River will be closed to fishing for king salmon to non-Federally qualified users to provide for escapement.

REGULATION

50 CFR 100.27(e)(4)(ii) is amended to add:

Federal public waters in that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon except by the residents of the Kuskokwim River drainage and the villages of Chefnak, Kipnuk, Kwigillingok and Kongiganek. Based on observed run strength, and in consideration of conservation concerns and escapement goals, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager may open portions of the drainage to the take of Chinook salmon.

JUSTIFICATION

Biological

Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has suffered from poor king salmon returns. 2013 was the lowest return on record. The 2014 State of Alaska king salmon forecast is for a return of 94,000 Chinook (range of 71,000–117,000). The drainage-wide escapement goal is 65,000–120,000. If


the 2014 return is within the forecast, then there will be enough fish to meet escapement goals and perhaps provide for a very limited king salmon subsistence harvest.

The majority of tributary escapement goals on rivers within the Kuskokwim drainage were not met in 2013 and all weir assessment projects had the lowest Chinook counts on record. Given consecutive years of low king salmon returns and a forecast that indicates a return barely adequate to meet escapement needs, it will be necessary to impose strict conservation measures. .

In addition to the anticipated closure to Chinook harvest for non-subsistence users on Federal public lands, severe chinook harvest restrictions to subsistence users are expected to be in place for the 2014 season with little harvestable surplus available.

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

By delegation to:


 Brian J. McCaffery, Acting Refuge Manager
 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

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