



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

## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

# SUBSISTENCE FISHING CLOSURE FOR CHINOOK SALMON IN THE CHIGNIK RIVER DRAINAGE

## EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19  
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

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**Emergency Special Action No: 8-KS-01-24** Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 13, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday June 14, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday August 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent special action.

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes all Federal public waters in the Chignik River drainage to subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon upstream of the Chignik River weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This closure prohibits all subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook Salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8)(ii) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8)(ii) are amended to read:

*You may take salmon, except for Chinook Salmon, in the Chignik River, with rod and reel, from a point 300 feet upstream of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game weir to Chignik Lake from January 1 through August 31, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. For Chinook Salmon, no harvest is allowed in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage upstream of the weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from June 14-August 31.*

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Jonathon Gerken  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chignik Area In-season Manager  
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The biological escapement goal has only been achieved in 4 of the last 10 years with the 2023 weir count being the lowest on record. It is assumed that the 2024 Chinook Salmon escapement goal will not be reached. Through Section 816 of Alaska National Interest Land Claims Act, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-24**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to sport and subsistence fisheries. Effective June 14, this emergency special action (**8-KS-01-24**) will close Chignik River Federal Public waters to the harvest of Chinook Salmon for all users concurrently with the closures of Chignik River state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon.

This Emergency Special Action: 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation; 2) is needed immediately; 3) is consistent with assessment projects; and 4) is likely to achieve desired results.

This action was taken in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local issuers of Federal subsistence permits. Potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcements were made in a timely manner at in person meeting in Chignik during the week of June 3, and this action is reasonable, rational, and responsible. An additional joint News Release with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game notifying users of all State and Federal closures was issued on June 14.

This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.



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