



Federal Subsistence Board

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



FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY CLOSED IN THE SITUK RIVER

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
43 CFR 51.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 12-KS-01-26

Issued at: Yakutat, AK, May 22, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 1, 2026

Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal subsistence Chinook Salmon fishery in the Situk River from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 1, 2026 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2026 due to conservation concerns. During this closure, the use of bait and gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River when fishing for other species, to minimize the incidental mortality of Chinook Salmon. Incidentally caught Chinook Salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has also taken actions in the State managed fisheries to reduce the harvest of Situk River Chinook Salmon.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(12) and 43 CFR 51.27(e)(12) are amended to read, in addition:

(x) Situk River is closed to Chinook Salmon harvest from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 1, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2026. During this closure, the use of bait and gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River when fishing for other species. All incidentally caught Chinook Salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

JUSTIFICATION:

Effective in 2026, ADF&G has set the biological escapement goal (BEG) for the Situk River drainage Chinook Salmon at 730 fish three ocean years of age or older, with a range of 450-1,050 fish. Previously, the BEG for the Situk River drainage was 450-1,050 large (>28 inches) Chinook Salmon. Since 2010, the goal was achieved in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019-2022, and 2024-2025 only after restrictive management measures were implemented. 2023 was the lowest escapement of Chinook Salmon recorded in the 36 years the weir has been operated at its current location (144 large Chinook Salmon). The total run forecast for 2026 is 900 large fish. Recent trend towards chronic low returns warrants a conservative approach to ensure the BEG is achieved and to allow as many Chinook Salmon as possible to reach the spawning grounds.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



Nate Catterson
District Ranger
Yakutat Ranger District
May 22, 2026

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