



Federal Subsistence Board

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



SUBSISTENCE FISHING CLOSURE FOR CHINOOK SALMON IN THE CHIGNIK RIVER DRAINAGE

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Emergency Special Action No: **8-KS-01-26**

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 12, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday June 20, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday August 18, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent special action.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 43 CFR 51.27(e)(8)(ii) are amended to read:

*You may take salmon in the Chignik River, with rod and reel, from a point 300 feet upstream of the ADF&G weir to Chignik Lake from January 1 through August 9, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon by gillnet in Black Lake or any tributary to Black or Chignik Lakes with a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon in the waters of Clark River and Home Creek from their confluence with Chignik Lake upstream 1 mile. In the open waters of Clark River and Home Creek you may take salmon by snagging (handline or rod and reel), spear, bow and arrow, or capture by hand without a permit. The daily harvest and possession limits using these methods are five per day and five in possession. **Chinook Salmon fishing and harvest is closed in the Chignik River drainage from June 20-August 18. Chinook Salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.***

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 not been achieved in 7 of the last 9 years. With the 2023 weir count being the lowest on record, 267 fish. It is assumed that the 2026 Chinook Salmon escapement goal will not be reached unless restrictions are in place similar to the 2025 fishing season. Through Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-26**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population.

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.

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. Potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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

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