



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

Emergency Special Action No: 8-KS-01-23 Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 3, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday July 5, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday August 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent special action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 July 13-August 31.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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 weir count as of July 3 was 12 Chinook Salmon. Based on

historical run timing, the current projected total escapement is below the lower end of the escapement goal of 1,300 fish. Through Section 816 of Alaska National Interest Land Claims Act, this Emergency Special Action **(8-KS-01-23)** 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 July 5, this emergency special action **(8-KS-01-23)** 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 announcement made in a timely manner, 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 July 3.

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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