



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

#### 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-SS-01-21** Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 7, 2021 Effective

Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 8, 2021

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, beginning 12:01 am on July 8, 2021, through July 31, 2021. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Sockeye Salmon may only be harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit during this time.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

*(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.*

*A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear*

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 early run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The cumulative weir count as of July 5 is 192,403 early-run and 15,861 late-run Sockeye Salmon resulting in a total of 208,264 fish. The interim escapement objective for July 5 is 300,000 – 390,000 fish. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. The early-run is approaching the average three-quarter point, which occurs during the week of July 5. As such, the Federal Inseason manager has been speaking with Chignik Area villages to understand how subsistence fishing has progressed. Chignik Lake subsistence fishing was characterized as slow with 50% harvest completed on July 1. An additional meeting with the Chignik Lagoon subsistence fishing community will occur on July 9.

The ten-year average (2010 – 2019), genetic proportions of early-run and late-run Sockeye Salmon for July 5 are 70% early-run and 30% late-run. It is typical for the late-run Sockeye Salmon run to be a larger proportion during the week of July 19. The action is in place until July 31, 2021. This action may be rescinded once late-run Sockeye Salmon make the greater portion of the run and impacts of additional subsistence harvest to the early-run are reduced.

These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. Through Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Emergency Special Action closes fishing for Sockeye Salmon except for Federally qualified subsistence users who retain a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

This 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 after notifying the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The community of Chignik Lake was consulted on July 1, 2021 via teleconference. Additional consultations are forthcoming with the community of Chignik Lagoon via teleconference on July 9, 2021. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becherof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users 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.



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