



Federal Subsistence Board News Release



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

Forest Service

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Chignik River Federal Subsistence Fishery for Sockeye Salmon

The Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board under Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), has issued an emergency special action (**8-SS-01-21**) to close 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.

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.

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. These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

Permits can be acquired by contacting the Federal In-season Manager or at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville.

Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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