

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ADVISORY ANNOUNCEMENT



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2023 Chignik Subsistence News Release #01 Emergency Order #4-FS-L-SUB-01-23

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Chignik Lake in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Only 12 Chinook salmon have been counted through the Chignik River weir as of 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 3. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower range (1,300) of the escapement goal for Chignik River Chinook salmon will be achieved. In an effort to conserve the Chinook salmon run, both state and Federal fisheries will be closed concurrently to maintain viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population. There is already non retention in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Castle Cape section of the Western District in the Chignik Management area this season.

In an effort to conserve Chignik River Chinook salmon, in accordance with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2023, Chinook salmon in the Chignik Bay District 28 inches or greater in length may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed. In the Chignik River drainage, from Mensis Point upstream including Chignik Lake and its tributaries, all Chinook salmon may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2023 until Friday, 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2023, Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches in length in the Chignik Bay District and all Chinook

salmon in the Chignik River drainage, from Mensis Point upstream including Chignik Lake and its tributaries, may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery.

Concurrent with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game closure of state subsistence Chinook salmon, the Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board and Section 816 of Title VIII of ANILCA, will issue an emergency special action **(8-KS-01-23)** to close fishing for Chinook salmon by all users, effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2023. This emergency special action is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population. This emergency special action prohibits all fishing for Chinook salmon, and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2023 until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 31, 2023, subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon on all Federal public waters in the Chignik River drainage will close to all users upstream of the Chignik River weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal subsistence management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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