



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

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY REOPENS IN THE SITUK RIVER

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 12-KS-04-21

Issued at: Yakutat, Alaska, July 15, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 16, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 30, 2021 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action reopens the Federal subsistence Chinook Salmon fishery in the Situk River effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 16, 2021. The use of gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River through Friday July 30, 2021, to minimize the incidental mortality of Chinook Salmon. Bait will be allowed when fishing with rod and reel as per the Yakutat area regulations. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has also taken actions in the State managed fisheries to open the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet to the subsistence take of Chinook Salmon. This action supersedes 13-KS-03-21 which closed the Situk River to Chinook Salmon harvest and the use of bait and gillnets.

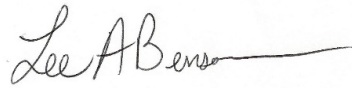
REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(12) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(12) are temporarily modified to read, in addition:

(x) Effective Friday July 16 2021, through Friday, July 30th, the use of gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River.

JUSTIFICATION:

ADF&G has set the biological escapement goal for the Situk River drainage at 450-1,050 large (>28 inches) Chinook Salmon. The return of large Chinook Salmon to the Situk River has been below the goal in five of the last ten years. The goal was achieved in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2020, after restrictive management measures were implemented. As of July 14, the 2021 Situk River Chinook run is projected to meet or exceed the upper escapement goal, warranting Chinook Salmon retention in the Federal subsistence fisheries. Even though the 2021 forecast is projected to meet or exceed the escapement goal, chronic low returns require a conservative approach to harvest to allow as many Chinook Salmon as possible to reach the spawning grounds; conservative harvest limits will be specified as permit conditions. The use of gillnets is prohibited in order to minimize incidental mortality of Chinook Salmon beyond the allowable harvest.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



Lee Benson
District Ranger
Yakutat Ranger District
July 15, 2021

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