



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

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**Emergency Special Action No:** 12-KS-02-20

**Issued at:** Yakutat, Alaska, July 21, 2020

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, 2020

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action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. Wednesday, July 22, 2020. The use of gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River through Thursday July 30, 2020, to minimize the incidental mortality of Chinook Salmon. 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 12-KS-01-20 which closed the Situk River to Chinook Salmon harvest and the use of bait and gillnets.

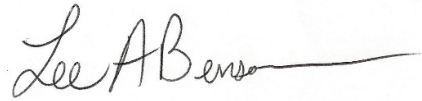
**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(12) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(12) are temporarily modified to read, in addition:

**(x) Effective Wednesday, July 22 2020, through Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 six of the last ten years. The goal was achieved in 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2019 after restrictive management measures were implemented. As of July 17, the 2020 Situk River Chinook run is projected to meet or exceed the upper escapement goal, warranting Chinook Salmon in the Federal subsistence fisheries. Even though the 2020 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:



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Lee Benson  
District Ranger  
Yakutat Ranger District  
July 21, 2020

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