



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

Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-20 Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 17, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020

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 June 18, 2020, through July 31, 2020. 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 public 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:

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 weir escapement estimate as of June 16 was 8,868 Sockeye Salmon, which is well below the 95,000 – 125,000 expected for this point in the run. 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. 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 following consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville submitted a joint letter in support of this action dated June 16, 2020. 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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