



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

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**Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-20** Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 16, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday July 18, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday August 9, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent special action

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes all Federal public waters in the Chignik River drainage to subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon upstream of Mensis Point at the head of the Chignik Lagoon. This closure prohibits all subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook Salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8)(ii) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8)(ii) are amended to read:

***You may take salmon, except for Chinook Salmon, in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River Drainage, from January 1 through August 9, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. For Chinook Salmon, no harvest is allowed in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage from July 18-August 9.***

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Jonathon Gerken  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chignik Area In-season Manager  
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The weir count as of July 16 was 513 Chinook Salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 50% of the escapement has occurred by July 15, and the current projected total escapement is approximately 900 fish. Through Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-20**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to sport and subsistence fisheries. No commercial fisheries have been implemented for the 2020 fishing year in the Chignik Area. Effective July 18, this emergency special action (**8-KS-01-20**) will close Chignik River Federal Public waters to the harvest of Chinook Salmon for all users concurrently with the closures of Chignik River State subsistence and sport fisheries for Chinook Salmon.

This Emergency Special 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 in consultation with Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR Manager have been notified, as well as local issuers of Federal subsistence permits. Potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement made in a timely manner, and this action is reasonable, rational, and responsible. A joint News Release with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game notifying users of all State and Federal closures was issued on July 16.

Fishers are reminded that Sockeye Salmon can only be taken by Federally qualified users on Federal Public Waters in possession of Federal Subsistence Fishing Permit as referenced in Emergency Special Action **8-SS-01-20**.

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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