



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-01-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 25, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2019, unless superseded by subsequent special action.

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. Sockeye Salmon may only be taken by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville. This action is in response to low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon to the Chignik River drainage.

A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using a set gillnet or other legal subsistence gear types to fish for Sockeye Salmon, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at local tribal council offices or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) are amended to 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 23 was 103,422 Sockeye Salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 51% of the escapement has occurred by June 23 and escapements at the weir are typically between 215,000 and 320,000 fish. 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 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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