



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-02-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 25, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 25, 2019

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action rescinds Emergency Special Action No. 8-SS-01-19 and opens Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon by all users. This action is in response to the genetic stock composition of Chignik River drainage Sockeye Salmon being comprised predominantly of late run Sockeye Salmon. The late run Sockeye Salmon is expected to meet escapement goals and provide subsistence harvest opportunity.

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 waters, 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) read:

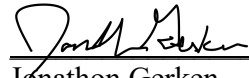
(i) You may take fish other than salmon, rainbow/steelhead trout, or char at any time, except as specified by a subsistence fishing permit. For salmon, Federal subsistence fishing openings, closings and fishing methods are the same as those issued for the subsistence taking of fish under Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.060), unless superseded by a Federal Special Action. Within the Chignik Area, depending upon the area that you may fish, in addition to a State subsistence fishing permit, you may be required to also have a Federal subsistence permit.

(ii) You may take salmon in the Chignik River, with rod and reel, from a point 300 feet upstream of the ADF&G weir to Chignik Lake from January 1 through August 9, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon by gillnet in Black Lake or any tributary to Black or Chignik Lakes with a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon in the waters of Clark River and Home Creek from their confluence with Chignik Lake upstream 1 mile. In the open waters of Clark River and Home Creek you may take salmon by snagging (handline or rod and reel), spear, bow and arrow, or capture by hand without a permit. The daily harvest and possession limits using these methods are five per day and five in possession.

(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 total weir escapement estimate as of July 23 was 506,892 Sockeye Salmon. Historical run timing indicates that approximately 94% of the escapement for the early-run Sockeye Salmon has occurred by July 25, and the July 19 genetic stock composition estimate was greater than 80% late-run 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. Late-run Sockeye Salmon are expected to meet escapement goals and provide subsistence harvest opportunity. The restrictions implemented through Emergency Special Action 8-SS-01-19 are no longer necessary as the escapement is now primarily composed of later-run Sockeye Salmon. Impacts to the early-run Sockeye Salmon harvest are likely minimal at this point in the Chignik River drainage Sockeye Salmon run.

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/Becharof 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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