



Federal Subsistence Board



1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY CLOSED IN THE SITUK RIVER

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Under authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 12-KS-01-19

Issued at: Yakutat Alaska, May 10, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2019. Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2019 unless superseded by subsequent special actions

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal subsistence Chinook Salmon fishery in the Situk River from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2019 due to forecasted low returns. During this closure, the use of bait and gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River when fishing for other species, to minimize the incidental mortality of Chinook Salmon. Incidentally caught Chinook Salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has also taken actions in the State managed fisheries to reduce the harvest of Situk River Chinook Salmon.

REGULATION:

36 CFR 242.27(e)(12)(x) and 50 CFR 100.26(e)(12)(x) are added to read:

The Situk River is closed to Chinook Salmon harvest from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2019. During this closure, the use of bait and gillnets will not be allowed in the Situk River when fishing for other species. All incidentally caught Chinook Salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



District Ranger
Yakutat Ranger District Ranger District
May 10, 2019

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 nine years. The goal was achieved in 2013, 2014, and 2017 after restrictive management measures were implemented. The 2019 forecast is for 300 large Chinook. This action is necessary to conserve Chinook Salmon in the Situk River.

DISTRIBUTION:

RADIO

KCAW radio, Sitka; KTOO radio, Juneau

PRINT

Juneau Empire; Capital City Weekly, Juneau

TELEVISION

GCI Cable; Juneau network television

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe; City and Borough of Yakutat; Rick Hoffman, ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries, Yakutat; Matt Catterson, ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Yakutat; Alaska Department of Public Safety, Yakutat; James Capra, National Park Service; Don Hernandez, Chair, Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council; Greg Risdahl, Scott Ayers, Caron McKee, Theo Matuskowitz and George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage; Earl Stewart, USFS Tongass National Forest Supervisor, Ketchikan; Jordan Rymer, USFS Law Enforcement Officer, Moose Pass; Paul Robbins, USFS Public Affairs, Ketchikan; Tom Whitford, Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Anchorage; Melinda Hernandez-Burke, Tribal Relations Program Manager, USFS-Juneau; Terry Suminski, Tongass Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Sitka; DeAnna Perry, Coordinator, Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council