

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2017 Chignik Subsistence News Release #01
Emergency Order #4-FS-L-SUB-01-17**

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Chignik Lake in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Only 726 Chinook salmon have been counted through the Chignik River weir as of 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 21. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower range (1,300) of the escapement goal for Chignik River Chinook salmon will be achieved. In an effort to conserve the lower than expected Chinook salmon run, both state and Federal fisheries will be closed concurrently to maintain viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population.

Within the Chignik District of the Chignik Management Area Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length taken in the commercial salmon fishery, may not be retained and must be returned to the water unharmed. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish has announced that sport fishing for Chinook salmon in the Chignik Lake drainage will close at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 23, 2017.

In an effort to conserve Chignik River Chinook salmon, in accordance with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Chinook salmon may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed in the Chignik River drainage beginning at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 23. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska.

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Effective at 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 23, 2017 until Sunday, 11:59 p.m. December 31 2017, Chinook salmon in the Chignik River drainage, from Mensis Point upstream including Chignik Lake and its tributaries may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery.

Concurrent with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game closure of state subsistence Chinook salmon, the Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board under ANILCA Title VIII section 816, will issue an emergency special action **(8-KS-01-17)** to close subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon to all users, non-federal and Federally qualified users, in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage, effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday July 23. This action is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population. This action 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.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 23, 2017 until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, 2017, subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon on all Federal public waters in the Chignik River drainage will close to all users upstream of the Chignik River weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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