SUBSISTENCE FISHING IN KARLUK RIVER DRAINAGE

June 23, 2020

SUBSISTENCE FISHING

SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19
36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19

Special Action Number: 09-KS-01-20

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 25, 2020, until 11:59 PM Friday, July 24, 2020, Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage may not be retained in the subsistence fishery.

EXPLANATION: This Special Action closes the Federal public waters of the Karluk River and the submerged land and water of the Pacific Ocean (Shelikof Strait) near the river mouth under Federal subsistence fisheries jurisdiction to retention of Chinook (king) Salmon. Only 1,022 Chinook Salmon have been counted through the Karluk River weir as of June 22. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower value (3,000) of the escapement goal for Karluk River Chinook Salmon will be achieved.

In an effort to conserve Karluk River Chinook Salmon, under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage may not be retained in the Federal public waters of the Karluk River or the submerged land and water of the Pacific Ocean (Shelikof Strait).

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, has closed sport fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 25, until 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2020, Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage may not be retained in the subsistence fishery unless superseded by a subsequent Special Action.

REGULATION: 50 CFR Part 100.27 (e) (9) (v)(B) is amended to read: (B) In the remainder of the Kodiak Area not described in paragraph (e)(9)(v)(A) of this section, there is no
annual harvest limit for a subsistence Salmon fishing permit holder. Chinook (king) Salmon may not be harvested from the Federal public waters of the Karluk River or the submerged land and water of the Pacific Ocean (Shelikof Strait) extending 3,000 feet from the shoreline between a point on the spit at the meander corner common to Sections 35 and 36 of Township 30 South, Range 33 West, and a point approximately 1¼ miles east of Rocky Point within Section 14 of Township 29 South, Range 31, West, Seward Meridian as described in Public Land Order 128, dated June 19, 1943; effective at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 25, until 11:59 p.m. Friday July 24, 2020, Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage may not be retained in the subsistence fishery unless superseded by a subsequent Special Action.

by delegation to

Michael Brady, Refuge Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
JUSTIFICATION:

Only 1,022 Chinook Salmon have been counted through the Karluk River weir as of June 22. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower value (3,000) of the escapement goal for Karluk River Chinook Salmon will be achieved.

In an effort to conserve Karluk River Chinook Salmon, under authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage may not be retained from the Federal Public waters of the Karluk River or the submerged land and water of the Pacific Ocean (Shelikof Strait) extending 3,000 feet from the shoreline between a point on the spit at the meander corner common to Sections 35 and 36 of Township 30 South, Range 33 West, and a point approximately 1¼ miles east of Rocky Point within Section 14 of Township 29 South, Range 31, West, Seward Meridian as described in Public Land Order 128, dated June 19, 1943;

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 25, until 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2020, Chinook Salmon in the Karluk River drainage may not be retained in the subsistence fishery unless superseded by a subsequent Special Action.

Chinook Salmon escapement into the Karluk River system will continue to be monitored daily. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be adjusted based on changes in the run strengths. If the Karluk River Chinook Salmon run sufficiently improves, the subsistence fishing restriction could be lifted to provide additional opportunity.