



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

Federal Subsistence Board

News Release



FOREST SERVICE

For Immediate Release
June 21, 2018

Contact: Jonathon Gerken
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Inseason Manager
(907) 271-2776
jonathon_gerken@fws.gov

Chignik River Federal Subsistence Fishery for Sockeye Salmon

The Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board under ANILCA Title VIII section 815, will issue an emergency special action (**8-SS-01-18**) to close Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users who are in the possession of a Social and Cultural Harvest Permit beginning June 22, 2018, through July 31, 2018. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations and continuation of subsistence uses of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Additionally, this special action allows salmon fishing with set gillnets beginning June 22, 2018, through July 31, 2018, only by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Social and Cultural Harvest Permit issued by the Federal in-season manager. A Social and Cultural Harvest Permit is required while using a set gillnet or other legal gear types while fishing for Sockeye Salmon and must be in the possession of the individual designated fisher(s) selected by each community. Conditions of the permit must be followed. This fishery is allowed in response to requests by Federally qualified subsistence users and to protect a poor return of Sockeye Salmon.

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 20 was 33,377 Sockeye Salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 51% of the escapement has occurred by June 20 and escapements at the weir are typically between 150,000 and 230,000 fish. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved.

For additional information, contact Federal Inseason Manager Jonathon Gerken at (907) 271-2776. Additional information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the Web at <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/> or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska

-FSB-

1011 East Tudor Rd, Mail Stop 121, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (800)478-1456 or (907)786-3888