



U.S. 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**  
August 7, 2018

**Contact:** Jeffry Anderson  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Cook Inlet Area Inseason Manager  
(907) 260-0132  
[jeffry\\_anderson@fws.gov](mailto:jeffry_anderson@fws.gov)

### **Federal Subsistence Fisheries for Kenai River Sockeye Salmon are Closed Downstream of Skilak Lake**

In an effort to conserve Sockeye Salmon in the Kenai River, Federal subsistence fisheries for Sockeye Salmon in the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake will be closed beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 9, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, September 30, 2018. This closure prohibits all subsistence fishing for Sockeye Salmon downstream of Skilak Lake. Sockeye Salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately unharmed.

The State of Alaska's 5 AAC 21.360 *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* identifies a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 700,000 to 1,200,000 Kenai River late-run Sockeye Salmon. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) estimates 606,113 Sockeye Salmon have passed their sonar site at river mile 19 on the Kenai River through August 6 and is projecting that the lower end of the SEG may not be met. As such, it is warranted to close Federal subsistence fisheries for Sockeye Salmon in the Kenai River downstream of Skilak Lake to conserve late-run Kenai River Sockeye Salmon. The Department has previously restricted commercial fisheries in Cook Inlet and closed personal use and sport fisheries targeting late-run Sockeye Salmon in the Kenai River downstream of Skilak Lake. Collectively, the State and Federal fishery management actions will provide the opportunity for late-run Sockeye Salmon in the Kenai River to reach their spawning grounds.

For additional information, contact Federal in-season Manager Jeffry Anderson at (907) 260-0132. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the Web at <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/> or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska)

**Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues?** If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing [fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov](mailto:fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov).

**-FSB-**