



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
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Forest Service

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY CLOSED IN THE SITUK RIVER

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Emergency Special Action No: 12-KS-01-25

Issued at: Yakutat, AK, May 16, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 1, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2025 unless superseded by subsequent special action


EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal subsistence Chinook Salmon fishery in the Situk River from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 1, 2025 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2025 due to conservation concerns. 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) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(12) are amended to read, in addition:

(x) Situk River is closed to Chinook Salmon harvest from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 1, 2025 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2025. 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.

JUSTIFICATION:

ADF&G has set the biological escapement goal (BEG) for the Situk River drainage at 450-1,050 large (>28 inches) Chinook Salmon. Since 2010, the goal was achieved in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019-2022, and 2024 only after restrictive management measures were implemented. 2023 was the lowest escapement of Chinook Salmon recorded in the 36 years the weir has been operated at its current location (144 large Chinook Salmon). The total run forecast for 2025 is 750 large fish (SE=250), with a 95% confidence interval of 250-1,250 fish. Recent trend towards chronic low returns warrants a conservative approach to ensure the BEG is achieved and to allow as many Chinook Salmon as possible to reach the spawning grounds.



Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

Nate Catterson
District Ranger
Yakutat Ranger District
May 16, 2025

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