



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

## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

# SUBSISTENCE FISHING CLOSURE FOR CHINOOK SALMON IN THE CHIGNIK RIVER DRAINAGE

## EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Emergency Special Action No: **8-KS-01-25**

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 16, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday June 20, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday August 18, 2025, unless superseded by subsequent special action.

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes all Federal public waters in the Chignik River drainage to subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon upstream of the Chignik River weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This closure 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.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8)(ii) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8)(ii) are amended to read:

*You may take salmon, except for Chinook Salmon, in the Chignik River, with rod and reel, from a point 300 feet upstream of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game weir to Chignik Lake from January 1 through August 31, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. For Chinook Salmon, no harvest is allowed in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage upstream of the weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from June 13-August 18.*

**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The biological escapement goal has not been achieved in 7 of the last 8 years. With the 2023 weir count being the lowest on record, 267 fish. It is assumed that the 2025 Chinook Salmon escapement goal will not be reached and will be similar to the 2024 season where 1,166 fish were counted at the weir. Through Section 816 of Alaska National Interest Land Claims Act, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-25**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population.

Effective May 1, 2025, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries emergency order #4-FS-L-SUB-01-25. Effective June 20, this emergency special action (**8-KS-01-25**) will close Chignik River Federal Public waters to the harvest of Chinook Salmon for all users concurrently with the closures of Chignik River state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon.

This Emergency Special Action: 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation; 2) is needed immediately; 3) is consistent with assessment projects; and 4) is likely to achieve desired results.

This action was taken in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local issuers of Federal subsistence permits.

This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA. Potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered. Public meetings were conducted as a series of in person meetings with households in Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, and Chignik Bay during the week of June 2.



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Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Jonathon Gerken  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Service Chignik Area In-  
season Manager  
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

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