



## Federal Subsistence Board

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



### FISHING CLOSURE IN WOMENS BAY TO CONSERVE BUSKIN RIVER ORIGIN SOCKEYE SALMON

#### EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19  
43 CFR 51.10 and .19

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**Emergency Special Action No: SA-9-SS-1-26**

Issued at: Kodiak, AK, 6/22/26

Effective Date: June 24, 2026 at 12:01 am

Expiration Date: July 15, 2026 at 12:01 am, unless superseded by subsequent special action

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal public waters of Womens Bay near the city of Kodiak to Sockeye Salmon fishing and harvest for all users effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 24 to 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, unless superseded by a subsequent Federal special action. The closure applies to Federal public waters of Chiniak Bay west of a line from Cliff Point (57° 43.51' N. lat., 152° 26.60' W. long.) to the southernmost tip of Near Island (57° 46.32' N. lat., 152° 25.00' W. long.) and south of a line from the southernmost tip of Near Island (57° 46.32' N. lat., 152° 25.00' W. long.) to a point near Gibson Cove (57° 46.62' N. lat., 152° 26.80' W. long.).

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(9) and 43 CFR 51.27(e)(9) are amended to add:

**(x) Federal public waters of Chiniak Bay west of a line from Cliff Point (57° 43.51' N. latitude, 152° 26.60' W. longitude to the southernmost tip of Near Island (57° 46.32' N. lat., 152° 25.00' W. long.) and south of a line from the southernmost tip of Near Island (57° 46.32' N. lat., 152° 25.00' W. long.) to a point near Gibson Cove (57° 46.62' N. lat., 152° 26.80' W. long.) are closed to the take of Sockeye Salmon by all users; effective from 12:01 a.m.**

**Wednesday, June 24 to 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, unless superseded by a subsequent Federal special action.**

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

As of June 17th, 546 Sockeye Salmon were counted at the Buskin Lake weir. Approximately thirty-three percent of returning Sockeye Salmon pass the weir by this date in a typical year. The escapement goal range is 5,000 to 8,000 Sockeye Salmon. Based on current counts, 2026 escapement is estimated at approximately 1,650 fish, far below the minimum escapement goal. The Kodiak Area Federal Subsistence In-season Manager has determined this closure is warranted under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to protect Sockeye Salmon returning to the Buskin River. The 2026 Buskin River Sockeye Salmon return is critically low and likely cannot withstand any harvest within the defined area.

In response to low Sockeye Salmon escapement projections, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has closed commercial, sport and subsistence salmon fisheries in the marine waters adjacent to the Buskin River drainage. These coordinated Federal and State fisheries management actions ensure that Buskin River Sockeye Salmon have sufficient opportunity to reach their spawning grounds.

ADF&G will continue to monitor Buskin River Sockeye Salmon escapement daily. The Federally managed subsistence fishery may be re-opened before the expiration of this emergency special action should weir counts indicate a high likelihood of meeting the 5,000 to 8,000 fish escapement goal.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Natalie Fath  
Acting Refuge Manager  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
June 22, 2026

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