



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-01-20

Issued at: Yakutat, Alaska, May 22, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 1, 2020

Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action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. Monday, June 1, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2020 due to forecasted low returns. 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.

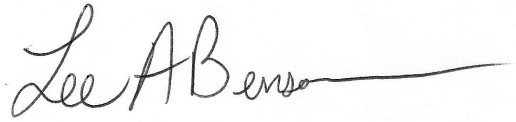
REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(12) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(12) are temporarily modified to read, in addition:

(x) Situk River is closed to Chinook Salmon harvest from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 1, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2020. 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 for the Situk River drainage at 450-1,050 large (>28 inches) Chinook Salmon. The return of large Chinook Salmon to the Situk River has been below the goal in six of the last ten years. The goal was achieved in 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2019 after restrictive management measures were implemented. The 2020 Situk River Chinook salmon preseason forecast is for a total run of 850 with a standard error of 607 large fish. Even though the 2020 forecast is within the escapement goal, the wide margin of error in the estimated run and chronic low returns require a conservative approach to allow as many Chinook Salmon as possible to reach the spawning grounds.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



Lee A. Benson
District Ranger
Yakutat Ranger District
May 22, 2020

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