SUBSISTENCE FISHING

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

Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-20  Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 17, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, beginning 12:01 am on June 18, 2020, through July 31, 2020. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Sockeye Salmon may only be harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit during this time.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal public waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.

A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

Jonathon Gerken
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chignik Area In-season Manager
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for early run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The weir escapement estimate as of June 16 was 8,868 Sockeye Salmon, which is well below the 95,000 – 125,000 expected for this point in the run. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. Through Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Emergency Special Action closes fishing for Sockeye Salmon except for Federally qualified subsistence users who retain a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

This 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 following consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville submitted a joint letter in support of this action dated June 16, 2020. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becherof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users 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.
DISTRIBUTION:
Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
Molly Chythlook, Chair, Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Debbie Carlson, Chignik Bay Tribal Council
Michelle Anderson, Chignik Lagoon Village Council
Francine Isenberg, Chignik Lake Traditional Council
Dana Lee Phillips, Native Village of Perryville
Ross Renick, Chignik Management Area Manager, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Michelle Stratton, Chignik Management Area Assistant Manager, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jeff Wadle, Westward Region Management Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Thomas Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Greg Risdahl, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Donald Mike, Bristol Bay Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Susan Alexander, Alaska Peninsula NWR Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Carol Damberg, Interagency Staff Committee, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mary Colligan, Assistant Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service
David Wigglesworth, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Crystal Leonetti, External Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Rory Stark, Law Enforcement, US Fish and Wildlife Service