



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
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE EULACHON FISHERY CLOSED IN DISTRICT ONE

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Emergency Special Action No: 13-EU-01-20 Issued at: Ketchikan, Alaska, February 25, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, March 1, 2020
Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters draining into District 1 to the harvest of Eulachon. All Eulachon incidentally caught must be immediately released into the water unharmed. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is also implementing a similar closure of District 1 for the State subsistence, personal use and commercial fisheries

REGULATION: 50 CFR 100.27(e)(13)(ii) and 36 CFR 242.27(e)(13)(ii) are temporarily modified to read:

*§ 27(e)(13)(ii) You must possess a subsistence fishing permit to take salmon, trout, grayling, or char. You must possess a subsistence fishing permit to take Eulachon from any freshwater stream flowing into fishing Sections 1C or 1D. **Eulachon may not be taken from waters draining into District 1 from 12:01 a.m., March 1 through 11:59 p.m., April 29, 2020***


JUSTIFICATION: Eulachon populations in District 1 have been critically low since 2005. Monitoring by the Forest Service, ADF&G, Ketchikan Indian Community and fisherman since 2001 provided information that indicates a decline of Eulachon populations in District 1. Although river surveys have occurred to document adult returns, little is known about Eulachon after they leave river systems for saltwater.

District 1 historically supported subsistence, personal use and commercial fisheries for Eulachon. In 2004, only 1500 pounds of Eulachon was harvested, with very low numbers seen by both subsistence fisherman and Forest Service personnel. From 2005 to 2010, very few Eulachon were seen annually in the area during this period. Although returns of Eulachon have occurred in the Burroughs Bay and Carroll Inlet areas since 2011, State and Federal managers believe abundances are far lower than those prior to the decline. Genetic analysis of Carroll Inlet fish showed a genetic similarity to Unuk River Eulachon.

During the 2018 and 2019 seasons, Forest Service personnel resumed on site monitoring at the Unuk River. Although returns were documented, the abundance of Eulachon noted in 2019 was lower and

of shorter duration than in 2018. State and Federal managers believe stock sizes within District I are still too low to support fishing and closure is necessary for conservation. The Eulachon life cycle is typically three to five years. Based on the numbers observed for the last three years it is not likely a harvestable surplus will be available in 2020. It is anticipated that all Eulachon returning to District I in 2020 will be needed for spawning to rebuild the area Eulachon populations. Therefore, Federal public waters draining into District I will be closed to the taking of Eulachon by all users in 2020 to provide for conservation of Eulachon.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



SUSAN A. HOWLE

District Ranger

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District

25 February 2020

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