



## Federal Subsistence Board

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FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

# RESCINDMENT OF REDUCTION IN HARVEST LIMIT OF CHINOOK SALMON TAKEN BY SPECIFIC GEAR TYPES IN THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES OF THE UPPER COPPER RIVER DISTRICT

## SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

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

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Special Action No: 11-KS-04-17

Issued at: Copper Center, Alaska, June 9, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 2017

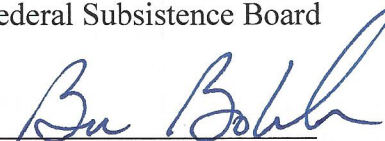
Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 15, 2017, unless superseded by subsequent Special Action.

**EXPLANATION:** This Special Action supersedes Special Action 11-KS-02-17 and rescinds the harvest limit reduction for Chinook Salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel that was in place for the period of June 1 through July 15. The annual harvest limit will return to 5 taken by dip net and 5 by rod and reel in the combined Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts of the Upper Copper River District for the remainder of the season.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(11)(x)(A,B,C) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(11)(x)(A,B,C) are amended to the original wording: No more than 5 may be Chinook Salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.

Federal Subsistence Board

by delegation to



Ben Bobowski  
Superintendent

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve  
June 9, 2017

## **JUSTIFICATION:**

This Federal Special Action rescinds the Federal subsistence harvest limit reduction for Chinook Salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel in Upper Copper River District. This management action is justified by evidence of sufficient Chinook Salmon inriver run strength which indicates the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) will likely be achieved. Evidence provided by recent inriver Chinook Salmon abundance reports is consistent with reports of greater than forecasted abundance in marine waters of the Copper River District. Continued restrictions in the Federal subsistence fisheries should no longer be necessary to assist in meeting the SEG. The inriver Chinook Salmon run strength will continue to be monitored to assess the potential need for future Federal subsistence management action in the fisheries of the Upper Copper River District.

The Federal and State fisheries are managed with the intent of achieving a SEG of a minimum of 24,000 Chinook Salmon. In response to a very low number of Chinook Salmon forecast (29,000) to return in the Copper River, preseason management actions were taken in the Federal subsistence fisheries with the intent of reducing harvest and assisting with achievement of the SEG. Preseason restrictions in the State commercial, subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries were also taken with the same intent.

On June 3, the State relaxed restrictions in their subsistence and sport fisheries of the Upper Copper River District after assessing the Chinook Salmon run strength to be greater than forecast, based on harvest and performance of the commercial fleet observed in limited open fishing periods that had occurred in marine waters of the Copper River District. As of the time that the State rescinded some of their restrictions, Federal managers delayed additional action until additional indicators could provide preliminary insight of actual inriver Chinook Salmon run strength.

Regulations established by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) pertain to Federal subsistence fisheries in the both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts of the Upper Copper River District. These fisheries are open to federally qualified users having customary and traditional use of salmon in each Subdistrict.

The State of Alaska also conducts a subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict and a personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict. Those fisheries are open to all Alaska residents. Management of the Federal and State fisheries is based on the numbers of salmon returning to the Copper River. This is known as “abundance based management”, in which a relatively weak salmon run may require restrictions in fisheries to achieve sustainable escapement goals.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Ryan Noel, Office of Law Enforcement, Stewart Cogswell, George Pappas, Theo Matuskowitz, Donald Mike, and Scott Ayers, Office of Subsistence Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage; Mary McBurney, Clarence Summers, Deborah Coble, and Carol Ann Woody, National Park Service Regional Office, Anchorage; Ben Bobowski and Greg Biddle, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Copper Center; Jill Klein, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.