



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, Alaska 99503



FOREST SERVICE

AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERAL SCHEDULE FOR THE CHITINA SUBDISTRICT OF THE COPPER RIVER

SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

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

Special Action No: 11-RS-07-16

Issued at: Copper Center, Alaska, August 3, 2016

Effective Date: 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. September 30, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent Special Action

EXPLANATION: This Special Action supersedes Special Action No. 11-RS-06-16 and decreases the period of time open for the taking of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River during the week of August 8 – 14, 2016. The fishery was scheduled to open to Federally qualified subsistence users from 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 9, to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 14. The fishery will now open on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and continue through Sunday, August 14, at 11:59 p.m.; a total of 78 hours. This Special Action (11-RS-07-16) also provides the tentative fishing schedule for future fishing periods. These periods are subject to modification by future Special Actions depending on the number of salmon entering the Copper River as estimated by sonar located downstream from the Chitina Subdistrict at Miles Lake.

The State of Alaska (State) also conducts a personal use fishery in this Subdistrict. That fishery is open to all Alaska residents. The State and Federal fishery usually follow identical fishing schedules.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(11)(ix) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(11)(ix) are amended to read: The Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will open to the taking of salmon on August 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and remain open for 78 hours, closing on August 14, 2016 at 11:59 p.m.

Additional fishing periods, subject to change by subsequent Special Action, are:

Monday, August 15, 12:01 a.m. continuous as provided by regulation

Federal Subsistence Board

by delegation to



Eric Veach

Acting Superintendent

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

August 3, 2016

JUSTIFICATION: In December, 2001 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted regulatory proposals establishing a new Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River. This fishery is open to Federally qualified users having customary and traditional use of salmon in this Subdistrict. Those eligible to participate are residents of Cantwell, Chickaloon, Chisana, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Gakona Junction, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, McCarthy, Kenny Lake, Lower Tonsina, Mentasta Lake, Nabesna, Northway, Slana, Tanacross, Tazlina, Tetlin, Tok, Tonsina and those individuals living along the Tok Cutoff from Tok to Mentasta Pass and along the Nabesna Road.

The State of Alaska (State) also conducts a personal use fishery in this Subdistrict. That fishery is open to all Alaska residents.

Management of both the Federal and State fisheries is based on the numbers of salmon returning to the Copper River. This is known as “abundance based management.” A larger than forecast salmon run will allow additional fishing time. A smaller than forecast run will require restrictions to achieve upriver passage and spawning escapement goals.

The fishing schedule described above is based on projected daily sonar estimates at the Miles Lake sonar located downstream from the Chitina Subdistrict at Miles Lake. Adjustments to this schedule are expected as a normal function of an abundance-based management strategy.

During July 18 – July 24, there were 26,514 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 55,217 salmon, which results in a deficit of 28,703 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to allow 78 hours of fishing time during the week of August 8 – August 14, a decrease of 58 hours from the preseason schedule.

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; Eric Veach and Greg Biddle, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Copper Center.