



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

### SUBSISTENCE FISHING

#### EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

**Emergency Special Action No: 10-KS-01-20**

Issued at: Soldotna, Alaska, June 12, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 15, 2020

Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal subsistence rod and reel fishery for early-run Chinook Salmon in all Federal public waters in the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 15, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, 2020. This closure prohibits all rod and reel subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon. Chinook Salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Restrictions are necessary to conserve early-run Kenai River Chinook Salmon.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(10)(iii)(C) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(10)(iii)(C) are temporarily modified to read:

(2) Seasons, areas, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of these salmon species under State of Alaska fishing regulations (5 AAC 56, 5 AAC 57 and 5 AAC 77.540), except for the following harvest and possession limits:

Species	Size	Limits
Chinook salmon— Early-run (January 1 through July 15)	<del>Less than 46 inches or 55 inches and longer</del>	<del>2 per day and 2 in possession. No harvest is allowed.</del>

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The State of Alaska’s 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan identifies an optimal escapement goal of 3,900 to 6,600 Chinook Salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork length and longer. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) estimates only 916 large Chinook Salmon have passed their sonar site at river mile 13.7 on the Kenai River through June 11. The Department’s inseason escapement projections range from approximately 1,700 large fish with average run timing to 2,200 large fish on a three day late run timing. As such, it is warranted to close the Federal subsistence rod and reel fishery to conserve early-run Kenai River Chinook Salmon.

This Special Action; 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation, 2) is needed immediately, 3) is consistent with assessment projects and preseason forecasts, 4) is consistent with historical stock status and harvest for this area, and 5) is likely to achieve expected results.

In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been consulted, the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council (Chairman and other members) has been consulted, the Ninilchik Traditional Council has been consulted, potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement can be made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

JEFFRY  
ANDERSON



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ANDERSON  
Date: 2020.06.12 14:01:24  
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Jeffry Anderson  
Cook Inlet Area Inseason Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
June 12, 2020

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