



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

For Immediate Release
June 13, 2012

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Kenai River Chinook Salmon Federal Subsistence Fishery Restricted to Protect the Early-Run

The Federal subsistence fishery for early-run Chinook salmon will be restricted in the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 15, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012. The restricted regulations limit fishing to one single, unbaited hook; reduce the daily bag and possession limits to 1 per day and 1 in possession less than 46 inches or 55 inches or longer; and reduce the annual harvest limit for Chinook salmon to 2 for each permit holder.

As of June 12, all indices used to assess the abundance of Chinook salmon in the Kenai River indicate a run that is well below average. All assessment methods are running below the minimum inseason management objectives at this time. Due to the high uncertainty of whether the minimum escapement of 5,300 fish will be achieved, it is warranted to restrict harvest of Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon. These restrictions of the Federal subsistence fishery by the Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to the Federal inseason manager follow actions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to restrict the sport fishery on June 15, 2012, to catch-and-release fishing and limited harvest of fish less than 20 inches and 55 inches or longer.

For additional information, contact Federal Inseason Manager Doug Palmer at (907) 262-9863. Additional information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the Web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.

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