



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 19, 2012

**Contact:** Doug Palmer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Cook Inlet Area Inseason Manager  
(907) 262-9863  
[douglas\\_palmer@fws.gov](mailto:douglas_palmer@fws.gov)

### **Kenai River Chinook Salmon Federal Subsistence Fishery Closed to Protect the Early-Run**

The Federal subsistence fishery for early-run Chinook salmon will close in the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012. This closure prohibits all subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon, including both dip net and rod and reel fisheries. Chinook salmon may not be retained or possessed. Chinook salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Through June 18, all indices used to assess the abundance of early-run Chinook salmon in the Kenai River indicate a run that is well below average and lowest on record. The present passage rates of early-run Chinook salmon into the Kenai River indicate that insufficient numbers of Chinook salmon will reach the Kenai River to achieve the optimal escapement goal of 5,300-9,000 fish. This closure of the Federal subsistence fishery by the Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to the Federal inseason manager follows actions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to close the sport fishery for early-run Chinook salmon in the Kenai River.

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>.

**-FSB-**