



Federal Subsistence Board



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

FOREST SERVICE

SUBSISTENCE FISHING

SPECIAL ACTION
JULY 14, 2012

FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE
BOARD

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

Special Action Number: 6-KS-03-12

ISSUED AT: Soldotna, Alaska, July 14, 2012

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 16, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2012 unless superseded by subsequent Special Action.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency Special Action closes all Federal public waters in the Kenai River drainage to subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 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.

REGULATIONS: 50 CFR Part 100, _____.27(i)(10)(iv)(E)(3) is amended to read:

For late-run Chinook salmon, no harvest is allowed in Federal public waters downstream of the outlet of Skilak Lake from July 16 – July 31.

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by delegation to *Doug Palmer*
Doug Palmer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cook Inlet Area Inseason Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

Chinook salmon runs throughout Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. Data from inriver assessment programs indicates that the late-run of Chinook salmon in the Kenai River is also experiencing low strength. The cumulative DIDSON sonar passage estimate through July 11 is 2,090 Chinook salmon which is the lowest on record for this date. All other indices used to assess the late-run are very low and are currently projected to be well under the inseason management objectives at the end of the run in early August.

Therefore, it is warranted to close the Federal subsistence fishery for late-run Chinook salmon. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has already restricted the sport fishery to catch and release fishing and will step-down to a closure of the fishery in the next few days if there is not a significant improvement in run strength indicating that inseason management objectives would be achieved.

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

In addition, the ADF&G has been consulted, potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement can be made in a timely manner, and this action is reasonable, rational, and responsible.

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