



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
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Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

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Kenai River Chinook Salmon Federal Subsistence Fishery Closed to Protect the Late-Run

The Federal subsistence fishery for late-run Chinook salmon will close in the Kenai River 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.

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. All 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. 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 restrict the sport fishery to catch and release fishing and planned step-down to a closure of the sport fishery in the next few days if there is not a significant improvement in run strength indicating that inseason management objectives would be achieved.

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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