



**KODIAK AREA
SUBSISTENCE FISHERY
NEWS RELEASE**



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
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Federal Subsistence Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2008

The Ayakulik River Chinook salmon run appears to be weak. Approximately 499 Chinook salmon have migrated upstream past the Ayakulik River weir counting station as of June 18. The desired Chinook salmon escapement for this date should range from 3,091 to 6,183. At this time it is not expected that the Ayakulik River lower escapement goal for Chinook salmon (4,800) will be achieved. If the Inner or Outer Ayakulik sections open to commercial salmon fishing, Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length taken in the commercial salmon fishery, may not be retained and must be returned to the water unharmed.

In an effort to conserve Ayakulik River Chinook salmon, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board will close the Ayakulik River drainage to subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday June 21, 2008, subsistence fishing in the Ayakulik River drainage will be closed to Chinook salmon.

Chinook salmon escapement into the Ayakulik River system will continue to be monitored daily. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be adjusted based on changes in the run strengths. If the Ayakulik River Chinook salmon run sufficiently improves, the in river subsistence fishing restriction could be lifted to provide additional opportunity.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska. However, the Federal Subsistence Board assures a subsistence priority for

rural residents as provided by Title VIII of ANILCA.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release and fishery restriction has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.