

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



*Doug Vincent Lang, Commissioner  
Sam Rabung, Director*



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Jeff Wadle, Regional Management Biologist  
Ross Renick, Area Management Biologist  
Michelle Stratton, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Chignik  
P.O. Box 48040  
Chignik Lake, AK 99548  
Phone: 1-907-512-6731

U.S. Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jonathon Gerken, Federal In-season Manager  
Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
4700 BLM Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
Phone: 1-800-272-4174

Date Issued: July 16, 2020  
Time: 9:15 a.m.

## **2020 Chignik Subsistence News Release #02 Emergency Order #4-FS-L-SUB-01-20**

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Chignik Lake in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Only 513 Chinook salmon have been counted through the Chignik River weir as of 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 16. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower range (1,300) of the escapement goal for Chignik River Chinook salmon will be achieved. In an effort to conserve the lower than expected Chinook salmon run, both state and Federal fisheries will be closed concurrently to maintain viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population. Sportfishing targeting Chinook salmon also closed at 12:01 am on Saturday July 18, 2020, see (2-KS-4-38-20). There currently has been no commercial salmon fishing in the Chignik Bay or Central districts of the Chignik Management Area this commercial fishing season.

In an effort to conserve Chignik River Chinook salmon, in accordance with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 18, 2020, Chinook salmon in the Chignik Bay District 28 inches or greater in length may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed. In the Chignik River drainage, from Mensis Point upstream including Chignik Lake and its tributaries, all Chinook salmon may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed. 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.

-continued-

**Effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 18, 2020 until Monday, 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2020, Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches in length in the Chignik Bay District and all Chinook salmon in the Chignik River drainage, from Mensis Point upstream including Chignik Lake and its tributaries, may not be retained in the state subsistence fishery.**

Concurrent with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game closure of state subsistence Chinook salmon, the Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board and Section 816 of Title VIII of ANILCA, will issue an emergency special action (**8-KS-01-20**) to close fishing for Chinook salmon by all users, effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 18, 2020. This emergency special action is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population. This emergency special action prohibits all fishing for Chinook salmon, and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

**Effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 18, 2020 until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 9, 2020, subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon on all Federal public waters in the Chignik River drainage will close to all users upstream of the Chignik River weir operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.**

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 has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-