



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



For Immediate Release
July 30, 2009

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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERY FOR SOCKEYE SALMON CLOSED IN FEDERAL WATERS OF THE HATCHERY CREEK DRAINAGE

CRAIG - Craig District Ranger Greg Killinger has announced that he is acting to further protect sockeye salmon in the Hatchery Creek drainage on Prince of Wales Island. The District Ranger, as in-season manager, is closing the Federal subsistence sockeye fishery in Federal public waters of the Hatchery Creek drainage due to a low adult sockeye return in 2009. The Federal Subsistence Board has delegated to him this in-season management authority.

Effective from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 1 until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 16, 2009, the portion of the Hatchery Creek drainage, from 100 feet upstream of the upper falls to 100 feet downstream of the lower falls, will be closed to all Federal subsistence fishing. Within the remainder of the drainage, you may subsistence fish under the terms of a Federal permit, but fishing gear will be limited to the use of rod and reel or dip net. Any sockeye caught must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. This action is necessary to allow sockeye salmon to negotiate the falls free from the effects of fishing pressure and to reach the spawning grounds. Beginning at 12 a.m., August 17, 2009, you may subsistence fish in the vicinity of the Hatchery Creek falls.

Prior to the fishery, State and Federal managers were anticipating low numbers of sockeye to return to the drainage. Aerial and ground observations indicate that returns of sockeye to the drainage in 2009 are even lower than expected. The Organized Village of Kasaan has operated a weir approximately 1 mile upstream of the upper falls at Hatchery Creek. Weir counts have indicated a low return of sockeye salmon.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has taken parallel Emergency Action in the sport fishery and the personal use fishery is closed by permit condition.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.

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