



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

## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FOREST SERVICE

### **FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERY FOR CHINOOK SALMON CLOSED IN THE SITUK RIVER**

#### **SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD**

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

---

Special Action No: 13-KS-02-11

Issued at: Yakutat, Alaska, May 24, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 28, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent special action

**EXPLANATION:** This Special Action closes the Federal Subsistence fishery for Chinook salmon in the Situk River and prohibits fishing with gillnet gear and use of bait when fishing with rod and reel in the Situk River. The closure begins at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 28, 2011 and continues through 11:59 p.m. July 26, 2011. Beginning May 28, 2011, all Chinook salmon incidentally caught must be immediately released back into the water with as little handling as possible. Subsistence fishing for species other than Chinook salmon in the Situk River continues to be permitted but the use of gillnets or bait when fishing with rod and reel is prohibited.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, closed the sport fishery for Chinook salmon in the Situk River drainage effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, 2011 (Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-03-11). The Emergency Order stated that “any Chinook salmon 20 inches or greater in length may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.”

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, closed subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet effective 6:00 a.m. May 19, 2011. The news release stated that “Chinook salmon may not be retained in the sockeye salmon subsistence fishery.”

State commercial fisheries are presently closed in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and if opened the retention of Chinook salmon will be prohibited according to the ADF&G Area Management Biologist.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(i)(12)(x) and 50 CFR 100.26(i)(12)(x) is added to read: In the Situk River, you must immediately release back into the water any Chinook salmon that are caught. The use of gillnet gear or bait when fishing with rod and reel gear is prohibited. These restrictions are effective from 12:01 a.m. May 28 through 11:59 p.m. July 26, 2011.

Federal Subsistence Board

by delegation to /s/ Lee Benson

Lee Benson  
District Ranger  
Yakutat Ranger District

**JUSTIFICATION:** The return of Chinook salmon to the Situk River has been relatively poor in recent years. In 2010, Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel counted only 167 large (three ocean-age and older) Chinook salmon through their weir on the Situk River. The escapement in 2011 is also expected to be quite poor given low parent year escapements and the relatively few number of two ocean-age fish observed at the weir in 2010. The Alaska Board of Fish has set the biological escapement goal range between 450 and 1,050 large Chinook. This closure is needed to minimize harvests of Situk Chinook salmon. Therefore, Federal public waters in the Situk River will be closed to taking Chinook salmon to provide for conservation of Chinook salmon. The prohibition of gillnet gear and the use of bait when fishing with rod and reel is necessary to minimize the incidental mortality of Chinook salmon when fishing for other species.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**RADIO**

KCAW radio, Sitka; KTOO radio, Juneau

**PRINT**

Juneau Empire; Capital City Weekly, Juneau

**TELEVISION**

GCI Cable; Juneau network television

**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe; City and Borough of Yakutat; Gordy Woods, ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries, Yakutat; Brian Marston, ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Yakutat; Alaska Department of Public Safety, Yakutat; James Capra, National Park Service; Bertrand Adams, Chair, Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council; Andrea Medeiros, Theo Matuskowitz and Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management; Forrest Cole, USFS Forest Supervisor, Ketchikan; Jeff Bryden, USFS Subsistence Law Enforcement Officer, Moose Pass; Erin Uloth USFS Public Affairs, Ketchikan; Cal Casipit, Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Juneau; Terry Suminski, Tongass Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Sitka