
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date: April 24, 2019

Time: 3:15 p.m.

2019 SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON FORECAST AND MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS

Yakutat...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the **2019 Yakutat Area commercial set gillnet AND subsistence fisheries**.

Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet: will be **closed** to the retention of Chinook salmon in commercial and subsistence fisheries from **6:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2019 until further notice**.

The following areas will be **closed** to all commercial set gillnet and subsistence fishing from **6:00am., Wednesday, May 1, 2019 until further notice**:

Mouth of Situk River: will be closed near the mouth of the Situk River west of a line from an ADF&G regulation marker located at the southeast end of Johnson Slough at 59°26.27' N. latitude, 139°32.62' W. longitude to a regulation marker directly across the Inlet on Black Sand Spit at 59°25.77' N. latitude, 139°33.18' W. longitude to a regulation marker westward along the beach of Black Sand Spit at 59°26.52' N. latitude, 139°35.07' W. longitude to a regulation marker west of the Yakutat Seafoods buying station at 59°26.73' N. latitude, 139°34.64' W. longitude.

Johnson Slough: all waters of Johnson Slough will be closed.

The Chinook salmon commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries in the Situk River drainage are managed under the guidelines of the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* (5 AAC 30.365). The plan directs the department to manage fisheries to achieve a Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range of 450-1,050 large (three ocean age and older) Chinook salmon to the Situk River. **The 2019 Situk River Chinook salmon preseason forecast is for a total run of 300 large fish.** The BEG was not achieved in 2010 through 2012, and again in 2015, 2016, and 2018. If the run comes back as projected, the BEG will not be achieved and actions in the directed sockeye salmon fisheries are essential to pass Chinook salmon.

The actions described above are intended to reduce fishery harvests of Situk River Chinook salmon and ensure the BEG is achieved. In addition, the department is requesting all Chinook salmon incidentally harvested in sockeye salmon directed commercial and subsistence fisheries be released immediately to assist in rebuilding the Situk River Chinook salmon run. **Subsistence fishermen are reminded that when fishing in the Situk River they are required to attend their gillnets at all times when they are being used to take salmon.** Please refer to the map on the following page identifying the closed areas.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1Y0119.



Figure 1. Map of the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet depicting waters closed to commercial and subsistence fishing in 2019.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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