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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

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2020 Chignik Subsistence News Release #02 Revised

Emergency Order #4-FS-L-SUB-02-20

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.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, 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.

Statistical charts, harvest strategies, and subsistence fishing permits are available at the Chignik weir and the Kodiak regional ADF&G offices. Commercial fishing regulations, commercial harvest, escapement, and news releases can be found on the ADF&G website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareachignik.salmon>. Fishermen are encouraged to standby on VHF Channel 6 at 9:15 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. daily for fishery updates. Escapement, harvest, and news release updates can also be heard on the Chignik commercial salmon message phone line by calling (907) 486-1839.

COVID-19

“Under Alaska’s Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska’s Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.”



This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

To reach the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage call 1-800-272-4174.

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