
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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CLOSURE OF COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREAS TO CONSERVE SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON

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

Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet: commercial and subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon will close at **6:00 a.m., Monday, May 1 until further notice**. Chinook salmon may not be retained.

The following area will be **closed** to the commercial **AND** subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon:

Mouth of Situk River: commercial set gillnet fishing AND subsistence fishing is prohibited 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 to a regulation marker directly across the Inlet on Black Sand Spit, to a regulation marker westward along the beach of Black Sand Spit and to a regulation marker west of the Yakutat Seafoods buying station. **All waters of Johnson Slough are closed** to commercial and subsistence fishing until the Chinook salmon run is over, as announced by ADF&G news release.

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. The 2017 Situk River Chinook salmon preseason forecast is for a total inriver run of 475 large fish. The BEG was not achieved in 2010 through 2012, and again in 2015 and 2016. The 2017 forecast suggests that the Situk River Chinook salmon return will be below desired levels if normal fisheries are prosecuted.

The actions described above are intended to reduce fishery harvests of Situk River Chinook salmon, help ensure the inriver run goal is achieved, and allow Chinook salmon to reach spawning areas. The department is requesting all Chinook salmon incidentally harvested in sockeye 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 landmarks shown on the map on the following page identifying the closed areas.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1Y0117.
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