
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Nicole Zeiser

Phone: (907) 784-3255
Fax: (907) 784-3254

Yakutat Area Office
P.O. Box 49
Yakutat, Alaska 99689
Date: April 26, 2018
Time: 2:45 p.m.

2018 SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON FORECAST AND MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS

Yakutat...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the **2018 Yakutat Area commercial AND subsistence fisheries**.

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

The following areas will be **closed** to commercial **AND** subsistence fishing:

Mouth of Situk River: commercial set gillnet 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 at 59°26.27' N. lat., 139°32.62' W. long., to a regulation marker directly across the Inlet on Black Sand Spit at 59°25.77' N. lat., 139°33.18' W. long., to a regulation marker westward along the beach of Black Sand Spit at 59°26.49' N. lat., 139°35.01' W. long., and to a regulation marker west of the Yakutat Seafoods buying station at 59°26.72' N. lat., 139°34.61' W. long.

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 2018 Situk River Chinook salmon preseason forecast is for a total run of 730 large fish.** The BEG was not achieved in 2010 through 2012, and again in 2015 and 2016. If the run comes back as projected, the Situk River Chinook salmon escapement goal will not be achieved 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 the map on the following page identifying the closed areas.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1Y0118.



Figure 1. Map of the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet depicting waters closed to commercial and subsistence fishing in 2018.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	