

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-26-11

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday August 3, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 6, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. September 30, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait on the Little Susitna River effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 6, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 30, 2011. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway. A person who takes a bag limit of salmon 16" or longer from the Little Susitna River may not fish for any species of fish in the Little Susitna River downstream of the Parks Highway that same day.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 ACC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area. (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning Saturday, August 6, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 30, 2011:

#### **5 ACC 60.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) from August 6–September 30, in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 10,100–17,700. In 2009 and 2010, the SEG was not achieved. Harvest can exceed escapement on average run years due to the high effort in this sport fishery. By August 6, approximately 50 percent of the harvest has typically taken place in the sport fishery. Indices of the coho run to Cook Inlet generated by the department's Offshore Test Fishery (OTF) were the lowest recorded since 1993. Commercial harvest in the Central District drift fishery as of July 29 was the lowest on record by this date since 1999. The sport fish exit

survey conducted at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility indicates below average catch rates, and are substantiated by guide and angler reports of low fishing success under good fishing conditions.

Based on these indices of run strength it is justified to slow the harvest of coho salmon at the Little Susitna to ensure the SEG is met. It is anticipated that restricting the use of bait will reduce harvest by 40-50 percent and save up to 3,200 fish.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.