

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-08-12

Issued at: Glennallen, Monday July 23, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday July 28, 2012

Expiration Date: August 11, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits retention of king salmon from the Klutina River and all waters of the Upper Copper River drainage downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 28, 2012. King salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The use of bait in these waters is also prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. (3)(A), (12)(E) and (G), (25)(A), and (E), and (32) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 28, 2012:

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(3) in the Copper River drainage, in that portion of the mainstem of the Copper River downstream from the confluence of the Copper River and the Slana River,

(A) upstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River, bait and artificial lures may be used;

(12) in the Klutina River drainage only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – July 31; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

(G) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 13 on the Klutina Lake Road, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

(25) in the Tonsina River drainage,

(A) in all flowing waters downstream from the outlet of Tonsina Lake, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the downstream edge of the Alyeska Pipeline crossing bridge, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

(32) in the Copper River drainage, downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____


Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2012 king salmon run to the Klutina River and Copper River drainage downstream of the Klutina River is lower than expected. Aerial survey indices were flown on July 19 for two clearwater king salmon spawning streams in the Klutina River drainage. These indices were less than half the historic average index for the streams surveyed.

Angler reports during the last two weeks indicate king salmon are present in the Klutina and Tonsina rivers. However, catch rates for guided and unguided anglers are below average. King salmon counts at the Gulkana River counting tower are the lowest for this project on this date.

The king salmon migratory timing and five-year average harvest rates for the Klutina River and Copper River drainage downstream of the Klutina River indicate it is prudent to reduce king salmon sport fishing mortality to achieve a spawning escapement of 24,000 or more king salmon in the Copper River drainage. Consistent with 5 AAC 24.361, *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*, retention of king salmon in the Klutina River and the Upper Copper River drainage downstream of the Klutina River is prohibited for the remainder of the king salmon sport fishing season. In addition, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used in the Klutina River drainage, Tonsina River drainage and the Copper River mainstem.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7357 and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309