

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-03-12

Issued at: Fairbanks, Monday, June 11, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sport fishing bag and possession limit for king salmon to one king salmon in all tributaries of the Kuskokwim River that are not previously closed by Emergency Order 3-KS-01-12, effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 13. This emergency order also closes all waters of the mainstem Kuskokwim River to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2012.

All king salmon caught from tributaries of the Kuskokwim River that exceed the bag and possession limit of one king salmon and all king salmon caught unintentionally from the mainstem Kuskokwim River while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (b)(1) are superseded and (c)(11) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2012, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012:

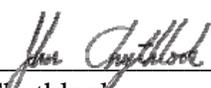
5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area

(b)(1) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish.

(c)(11) in the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon caught unintentionally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



John Chythlook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Preseason projections suggested that the Kuskokwim River king salmon run in 2012 would be weak. In 2011, the Kwethluk and Tuluksak rivers did not achieve king salmon sustainable escapement goals for the fourth and fifth consecutive years. The George River has achieved its SEG in three of the past four years. Aerial survey indices on Aniak River tributaries, Kipchuck and Salmon Rivers were amongst the lowest on record in 2011. While still early in the run, poor king salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) at the Bethel test fishery indicates a poorer than expected king salmon run for this date. The anticipated poor return, recent failures to meet escapement goals in Kuskokwim River tributaries, and indications of a poor run in the Bethel test fishery catches warrant a reduction in the sport king salmon bag and possession limit in the tributaries of the Kuskokwim River drainage and closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River mainstem.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-12, that closed all flowing waters to sport fishing for king salmon in Kuskokuak Slough between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream and downstream mouth of the slough including all waters of the Old Kuskokuak Slough; the Kisaralik, Kasigluk, and Kwethluk River drainages to their confluence with Kuskokuak Slough; the Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream to the upstream side of Mishevik Slough; the George River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately one-half mile to an ADF&G regulatory marker; the Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012, remains in effect.

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) 459-7228.