

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-02-13

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, May 24, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters to sport fishing for king salmon in Kuskokuak Slough between 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 approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers; and the Aniak River drainage, effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2013.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (c)(3)(A) are superseded and (c)(1)(A)(i) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 1, 2013:

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

(c)(1)(A)(i) In all waters of the Tuluksak, Kwethluk, Kisaralik and Kasigluk river drainages, and Kuskokuak Slough effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2013 sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon unintentionally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(c)(3)(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

  
John Chythlook  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In 2012, the Kwethluk River weir was inoperable due to high water, but the Kwethluk River king salmon escapement has not met the escapement goal since 2008. The Tuluksak River has had chronically low numbers of king salmon escapement and did not achieve its escapement goal since 2007. The Kisaralik River king salmon escapement has made the aerial survey index in only two of the last three years. Kuskokuak Slough drains the Kwethluk and Kisaralik/Kasigluk rivers, therefore closure of the slough to fishing is a necessary conservation measure in addition to the closure of the rivers themselves. Aerial survey indices on Aniak River tributaries, Kipchuck and Salmon rivers were amongst the lowest on record in 2011 and 2012.

The Department will continue to evaluate inseason run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement goals in these Kuskokwim River drainages will be met, restrictions will be relaxed.

**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) 459-7207.