

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-20-14

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, June 13, 2014

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 14, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-14, issued Thursday, February 27, 2014. This emergency order allows the use of bait and multiple hooks while sport fishing in the Deshka River and maintains the remainder of the sport fishing restrictions that were issued under Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-14. Those restrictions include limiting sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only when fishing in the Susitna River drainage. In addition, a person, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, may not fish for any species of finfish on the same day in any flowing waters open to sport fishing for king salmon in the Susitna River Drainage Area.

This emergency order continues to prohibit the harvest of king salmon (any size) in Units 1 (except Deshka River), 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Susitna River. Where harvest is prohibited, catch-and-release fishing is allowed. In the waters of Unit 2 open to king salmon fishing, fishing for trout and other species is not affected and is allowed as written in current regulation. The Deshka River is open to harvest of king salmon from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven day per week; bait and multiple hooks are allowed. The annual limit remains a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River.

Within Unit 4 (Yentna drainage), except for the Talachulitna River, this emergency order continues to allow harvest to occur each Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday and prohibits the retention of king salmon (any size) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, catch-and-release fishing is allowed, king salmon may not be retained or possessed, and king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The Talachulitna River is catch-and-release only seven days per week.

This emergency order is effective from 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 14, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (4), 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (3), 5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (2), 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1), and (2), 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (2), and 5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and

methods and means for Unit 6 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (4)(A), are superseded by this emergency order.

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (9)(C) and 5 AAC 61.123 Restrictions on sport fishing after taking king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Susitna River Drainage Area. (1)(M) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 14, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014:

**5AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(4) except in the Deshka River drainage, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

**5AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from January 1 through the third Monday in June, and on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for two consecutive weeks starting on the Saturday following the third Monday in June, Unit 2 is open to sport fishing for all finfish species, including king salmon; beginning May 1, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(3) from September 1– July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

**5AAC 61.116. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(2) from May 1–July 13, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed; sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

**5AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to

the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(2) from May 1– July 13, king salmon may be retained on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays only; any king salmon caught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed; sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

(9) the Talachulitna River drainage and all waters within a three quarter mile radius of its confluence with the Skwentna River,

(C) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

**5AAC 61.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(2) from May 1–July 13, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed; sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

**5AAC 61.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(4) in the East Fork of the Chulitna River drainage, including all waters within a one-quarter mile radius of its confluence of the East Fork and West Fork and including the Middle Fork of the Chulitna and the first quarter mile of Honolulu Creek

(A) from January 1 - July 13, the waters are open to sport fishing for all finfish species, including king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

**5 AAC 61.123. Restrictions on sport fishing after taking king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Susitna River Drainage Area.** Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, or unless modified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , a person, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, may not fish for

(1) any species of finfish on the same day in the following waters open to fishing for king salmon:

(M) any waters open to sport fishing for king salmon in the Susitna River Drainage Area;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Sustainable Escapement Goal on the Deshka River is 13,000 – 28,000 king salmon. Through 9 a.m., June 13, cumulative king salmon passage through the weir located at river mile 7 was 10,016 fish. On average, approximately 25% of the spawning escapement has passed the weir by this date, but there are indications that run timing may be earlier than average. Although a below average run is still expected, early run time models indicate the goal will be achieved after incorporating an expected 3,000 fish harvest resulting from this action. Therefore it is warranted to rescind the gear restrictions placed previously on the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery.

The preseason strategy, aimed at reducing harvest by as much as 70% across the Susitna drainage, remains in place to conserve areas of the Susitna drainage that may not be able sustain harvest, such as those given stock of concern status by the Alaska Board of Fish. Below average runs during previous years, past performance of fisheries within the Susitna River drainage under previous years' management strategies and uncertainty over how this year's return may continue to justify these restrictions.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-14, issued Thursday, February 27, 2014 is superseded. The restrictions contained within Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-14 are repeated in this new emergency order with the exception of Deshka River gear restrictions.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-07 -14 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River. This emergency order remains in effect from 6:00 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014.

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