

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-19-15

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, June 11, 2015

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 13, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday,
July 13, 2015, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-15, issued Thursday, February 19, 2015. This emergency order allows the use of bait and multiple hooks while sport fishing in the Deshka River beginning at 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 13, 2015, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-15 is rescinded.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal on the Deshka River is 13,000 – 28,000 king salmon. Through June 9, cumulative king salmon passage through the weir located at river mile 7 was 8,259 fish. On average, about 20% of the spawning escapement has passed the weir by this date. The run appears to be early and run time models project achievement of the goal even after incorporating a 1,500 fish harvest potentially 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 River drainage, remains in place to conserve areas of the Susitna River drainage that may not be able sustain harvest, such as those given stock of concern status by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The reduced 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. 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 run may progress justifies these restrictions remain in effect.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-15, which prohibited use of bait and restricted gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure is rescinded.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-15, which established a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River and the Little Susitna River drainages remains in effect through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015.

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.