

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-38-15

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, June 26, 2015

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 27, 2015

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July 13, 2015, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-15 issued on February 19, 2015, 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. This emergency order restores the Cook Inlet annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Deshka River and the Little Susitna River only.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area. (1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 27 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015:

5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(a)(1) king salmon

(A) 20 inches or greater in length may be taken only from January 1 – July 13; bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish; there is an annual limit of two fish from the Susitna River drainage, except the Deshka River, there is a combined annual limit of five, and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length removed from the water shall be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Samantha Oslund,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for the Deshka River is 13,000 – 28,000 king salmon. Through June 25, cumulative king salmon passage through the weir located at river mile 7 was 20,654 fish and run timing models project the escapement should be attained even with additional harvest from restoring the annual limit. The SEG for the Little Susitna River is 900-1,800 king salmon based on a post season aerial survey. Past comparisons of weir counts and aerial survey estimates indicate 40-60% of the fish passed through the weir are later counted in the aerial survey. Therefore, a weir based management target of 2,200 – 4,500 should achieve the SEG if at least 40% of the escapement is enumerated in the aerial survey. To date 4,057 king salmon have passed the Little Susitna weir.

A staff survey of Lake Creek indicated a run size that is likely to meet the escapement goal with the current restrictions; therefore Unit 4 of the Susitna drainage is not included in this emergency order.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

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 drainage and the Little Susitna River is superseded to restore the five fish annual limit in the Deshka River and the Little Susitna Rivers.

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.