

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-18-17

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, June 22, 2017

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Saturday, June 24, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-17, which established an annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length on the Little Susitna River. An annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length remains in effect through this emergency order. This emergency order also closes the Little Susitna River to sport fishing for king salmon, except on two consecutive three day weekends, Saturday – Monday, July 1 – July 3; and Saturday – Monday, July 8 – July 10.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Saturday, June 24 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from January 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing is open for king salmon with a bag and possession limit of one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, Saturday – Monday, July 1 – July 3, and Saturday – Monday, July 8 – July 10; there is an annual limit of two king salmon greater than 20 inches in length and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Emergency Order 2-KS-2-10-10 was issued preseason to restrict the annual limit to two king salmon over 20 inches in length in an effort to reduce harvest by up to 20% on the Little Susitna River. This strategy assumed a run size similar to below average runs experienced 2014–2016. To date, only 622 king salmon have passed the Little Susitna weir, which is located at approximately river mile 32.5 and four miles upstream of the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). The escapement goal for the Little Susitna River is 2,100–4,300 king salmon based on the weir count. The run appears to be holding in the lower 30 miles of river and is susceptible to over harvest. At this time, it is prudent to further restrict harvest until the run can be more fully assessed by weir. Video monitoring allows the ability to enumerate fish 24 hours per day.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-17 establishing an annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length on the Little Susitna River is superseded by this emergency order.

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.