

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-6-17

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 26, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
December 31, 2017, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-03-17 issued on Monday, April 17, 2017 and opens sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) with a bag and possession limit of one fish and an annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length of one fish.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010. (b)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 26 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017:

5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.

(b)(1) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length: bag and possession limit of 1 fish; annual limit of one fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:



Heather Scannell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan directs the department to manage the sport fishery to coordinate with commercial and subsistence fisheries. On May 1, 2017 the department closed the king salmon sport fishery in response to a below average run forecast and restrictions to subsistence fisheries. However, a greater than expected number of fish have passed the Pilot Station Sonar resulting in additional subsistence fishing opportunities. Given the better than anticipated king salmon run, the department is justified in lifting the preseason sport fishing closure and providing for some minimal king salmon harvest opportunity.

The department will continue to monitor the 2017 Yukon River king salmon runs as it continues to develop; if subsistence fisheries become further restricted or indicators of abundance suggest the run is weaker than current indicators suggest, the department may again take restrictive action.

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.