

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-57-18

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Effective Date: 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,
December 31, 2018, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, in all waters open to salmon fishing in the Susitna River drainage (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) to four per day and eight in possession, of which all may be coho salmon. No more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.110 (2)(A), 5 AAC 61.112 (3), 5 AAC 61.116 (6), 5 AAC 61.118 (3), 5 AAC 61.120 (6), and 5 AAC 61.122 (6) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 14 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, December 31, 2018:

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

(2)(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit is four fish per day and eight fish in possession, of which no more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination; if retention of coho salmon is allowed under this chapter, a coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish; the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase or decrease the bag and possession limit for coho salmon based on abundance indices;

5 AAC 61.112 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage.

(3) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish per day and eight fish in possession, of which no more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination;

5 AAC 61.116 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(6) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish per day and eight fish in possession, of which no more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination;

5 AAC 61.118 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(3) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish per day and eight fish in possession, of which no more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination;

5 AAC 61.120 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(6) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish per day and eight fish in possession, of which no more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination;

5 AAC 61.122 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(6) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish per day and eight fish in possession, of which no more than three per day and six in possession may be pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in combination;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for coho salmon in the Deshka River is 10,200-24,100 fish. On August the SEG was achieved. The run is likely trending with late run timing models this season due to environmental factors that stalled fish passage earlier in August and the upper bound of the escapement goal is likely to be exceeded. Past studies indicate that the Deshka River coho salmon stock can comprise from 7 percent to 17 percent of the mainstem Susitna River total abundance. Given this information, it is likely the Susitna River is experiencing a well above average run of coho salmon. Strong catch rates in commercial fisheries of the Central and Northern districts and reports from sport anglers and guides of above average catch rates across all clear water tributaries of the Susitna River drainage, are further indications of a large run of coho salmon. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for coho salmon.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.