

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-4-18

Issued at: Fairbanks, June 26, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 2, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
August 15, 2018, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order establishes an annual limit of one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Tanana River drainage. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010 (b)(1) and (d)(2), (5)(B), (15), (16)(B) and (18) are superseded and (d)(23) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 2 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 15, 2018:

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

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

(d) In the Tanana River Management Area, the following special provisions to methods and means apply:

(2) in the Chatanika River and its tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(5) in the Chena River and its tributaries, including Chena Slough (Badger Slough),
(B) bait may not be used;

(15) in the Salcha River and its tributaries only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

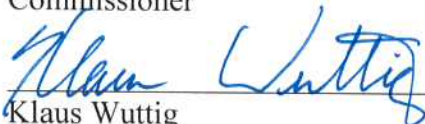
(16) in Shaw Creek,
(B) bait may not be used;

(18) in the Tanana River and its tributaries within a two-mile radius of Shaw Creek, bait may not be used;

(23) in all flowing waters of Tanana River tributaries, the use of bait is prohibited.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:


Klaus Wuttig
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The estimated king salmon passage at the Pilot Station sonar is below average for years with normal run timing. This indicates that the run may come in below the lower end of the preseason projection range of 173,000 to 251,000 king salmon. The magnitude of the 2018 run should be sufficient to ensure king salmon escapements goals are met in the Tanana River drainage due to conservative management practices implemented in the Yukon and Tanana river commercial and subsistence fisheries as specified in the *Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 05.360).

Conservative management within the sport fishery is warranted to ensure adequate escapement. Reducing the annual bag limit to one fish and prohibiting the use of bait is expected to significantly reduce annual king salmon harvest in the Tanana River drainage and is consistent with the provisions set forth in the *Chena and Salcha River King Salmon Sport Harvest Management Plan* (5 AAC 74.060).

The department monitors king salmon escapements in the Chena and Salcha Rivers. If indicators of abundance suggest the run in the Tanana River drainage are weaker than current indicators suggest or subsistence fisheries become further restricted, the department may take additional 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.