

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-I-05-18

Issued at: Glennallen, Thursday, July 12, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 16, 2018

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District until further notice.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 77.001(b), the 5 AAC 77.591 *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan*, and authority under AS 16.05.060 the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will be closed until further notice effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 16.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:



Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction of the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30, and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. Daily sonar counts have begun to lag behind projected passage, and stock and abundance data from a July 9 commercial fishery in the Copper River District indicate insufficient run strength needed to achieve the lower bound Copper River sockeye salmon escapement goal. It is therefore justified to close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery until further notice.

If sonar passage improves, the department will reevaluate the run, and may reopen the fishery if the escapement goal will be achieved and surplus salmon are available for harvest. Regardless of sonar passage, the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery will reopen by regulation beginning September 1.

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) 459-7357 and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.