

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-06-21

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 26, 2021

Expiration Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Upper Copper River drainage upstream of the south bank of Haley Creek to sport fishing for king salmon. King salmon may not be taken or possessed and must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait in specified flowing waters is also prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022 (a)(3) and 5 AAC 52.023 (3)(A), (9)(B), (12)(C)(i), (E), (G), (25)(A)(i) and (ii), (E), and (32) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 26:

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(a)(3) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(3) in the Copper River drainage, in that portion of the mainstem of the Copper River downstream from the confluence of the Copper River and Slana River,

(A) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(B) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used in that portion of the mainstem of the Gulkana River upstream from the Richardson Highway Bridge to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately at an unnamed creek flowing into the Gulkana River about seven and one-half miles upstream from the confluence with the West Fork of the Gulkana River;

(12) in the Klutina River drainage, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(C) in all flowing waters upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road,

(i) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

(G) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 13 on the Klutina Lake Road, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

(25) in the Tonsina River drainage,

(A) in all flowing waters downstream from the outlet of Tonsina Lake,

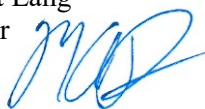
(i) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(ii) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the downstream edge of the Alyeska Pipeline crossing bridge, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

(32) in the Copper River drainage, downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent Lang
Commissioner



by delegation to:

Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.361) directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal in the Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. The 2021 king salmon run to the Copper River is substantially weaker than the preseason forecast of 37,000 king salmon. Catch rates of king salmon in the Native Village of Eyak research fish wheels through June 22 are the third lowest on record since 2003 and recapture rates indicate a potential inriver return below the Copper River drainage king salmon escapement goal, providing no surplus for harvest. Additionally, only 132 king salmon have passed the Gulkana River salmon counting tower through June 22, which is the second lowest count on record for this date and 79% below average. Therefore, prohibiting the retention of king salmon in the Upper Copper River king salmon sport fisheries is justified to ensure the escapement goal is achieved.

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.