

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-33-22

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, June 16, 2022

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Monday, June 20, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, 2022,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-22, issued in Palmer on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. This emergency order closes the Little Susitna River to sport fishing for king salmon and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing for other species. The closure prohibits sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway Bridge.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Monday, June 20 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, 2022:

#### **5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from June 20 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(B) from June 20 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

By delegation to:

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



Sam Ivey  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Emergency Order 2-KS-2-06-22 was issued preseason to restrict the sport fishery to catch-and-release only. High spring melt off has made assessment of run strength using weir counts and reports of fishing success difficult this season. However, weir counts to date are of the lowest on record. The Little Susitna king salmon sport fishery has the potential for higher harvest rates relative to other Northern Cook Inlet sport fisheries. Anticipated shifts in effort due to closing the Deshka River sport fishery through a separate

emergency order is likely to put more pressure and increase release mortality of the Little Susitna king salmon stock this season. Therefore, it is prudent to conserve all king salmon returning the Little Susitna River to provide the greatest potential for achieving the escapement goal in 2022. Other areas of Cook Inlet and the state are experiencing very low returns of king salmon this season. To date, all wild stock king salmon fisheries within Cook Inlet south of the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area have been closed.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-22, which restricted the king salmon sport fishery on the Little Susitna River to catch-and-release only and limited sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only from May 1 through July 13, 2022, is superseded by this emergency order.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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