

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-66-22

Issued at: Anchorage, Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 9, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order restricts gear to unbaited, artificial lures and reduces the bag and possession limit for coho salmon in all freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42 downstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge (also known as Copper River Highway streams) from three to two fish.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023. (1)(A)(i) and (ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provision are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 9 through Saturday, December 31, 2022:

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Prince William Sound area.

(A) in all freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42,

- (i) the bag and possession limit is two fish; a coho salmon removed from the water shall 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;
- (ii) from September 9 – December 31, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Douglas Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner



Jay Baumer
Area Management Biologist

By delegation to:

JUSTIFICATION:

On September 6, the Copper River Delta drainage aerial survey count for coho salmon was estimated at 11,240 coho salmon compared to an anticipated range at this point in the season of 18,286 – 38,285. This was an incomplete survey, but conditions on the streams that could be surveyed were reported as fair to good. The water levels on the Copper River Delta streams are relatively high and angler effort is currently low but with the aerial survey indicating a lower than anticipated coho salmon run, it is

warranted to manage this stock conservatively to ensure the Copper River Delta escapement goal of 32,000 is achieved.

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.