

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-07-23

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, March 02, 2023

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Monday, May 1, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2023,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Little Susitna River and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure.

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 (9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order.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, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2023:

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 May 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing is open for king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) from May 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Little Susitna River king salmon, like other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet, are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since 2007, below average run strength. The Little Susitna River king salmon Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is 2,100 – 4,300 fish. The SEG was attained in 2020–2022 with the majority of the fishing season restricted to catch-and-release fishing. The last several years demonstrate no apparent trend in abundance. The SEG is likely to be achieved through non-retention if this year's run size compares to the recent 3-year average. The Little Susitna River king salmon fishery has the potential for higher sport harvest rates relative to other Northern Cook Inlet sport fisheries. A weir

will be used to evaluate run strength inseason on a daily basis should additional actions be necessary to either close the fishery or relax restrictions during the season.

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.