

PERSONAL USE FISHERY

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-05-99

Issued at: Glennallen, June 21, 1999

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. June 22, 1999

Expiration Date: December 31, 1999

Unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order changes the schedule for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River for the period from June 28 – July 5. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 8:00 A.M. Wednesday June 30 until 8:00 P.M. Monday July 5, and potentially reopen 12 noon Wednesday July 7 until 8:00 P.M. Sunday July 11. Additional emergency orders may change the fishing time of future openings based on actual numbers of fish passing the Miles Lake Sonar. After August 31, the fishery will remain open, by regulation, through September 30.

Salmon may be taken in the Chitina Subdistrict during the following time periods as established by emergency order (those openings not in **bold**, are preliminary and subject to change based upon actual sonar counts):

<u>Opening dates</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Friday June 11, 8:00 A.M. to Saturday June 12, 8:00 P.M.	36
Saturday June 19, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday June 20, 8:00 P.M.	36
Wednesday June 23, noon to Sunday June 27, 8:00 P.M.	104
Wednesday June 30, 8:00 A.M. to Monday July 5, 8:00 P.M.	132
Wednesday July 7, noon to Sunday July 11, 8:00 P.M.	104
Wednesday July 14, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday August 22, 8:00 P.M.	continuous
Wednesday August 25, 8:00 A.M. to Tuesday August 31, 11:59 P.M.	160
Wednesday September 1, 12:00 A.M. to September 30, 11:59 P.M.	continuous

REGULATION:

Consistent with the COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 77.590 (b),

“Salmon may be taken from June 1 through September 30. The department will establish, by emergency order, a preseason schedule for the period June 1 through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake. This abundance based schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season. Adjustments will be made to the schedule inseason based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. When the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, additional fishing time will be announced by emergency order. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than

the projected sonar count, fishing time will be reduced, by a corresponding percentage, by emergency order.”

The following change is made to the schedule for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River for the period from June 28 - July 5. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 8:00 A.M. Wednesday June 30 until 8:00 P.M. Monday July 5, and potentially reopen 12 noon Wednesday July 7 until 8:00 P.M. Sunday July 11. Tentative openings after this period are listed in the schedule above. These openings may be changed by emergency order depending on the actual sonar counts at Miles Lake. After August 31, the fishery will remain open, by regulation, through September 30.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____
Tom Taube
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As indicated above, the Department establishes a pre-season schedule based on the pre-season forecast of salmon passing the sonar station. This year the projected numbers of fish passing the sonar in the early portion of the run are low, thus in order to assure passage of adequate numbers of early run fish and to maintain fish adequate for the harvest potential, the fishing periods are restrictive. Increased participation in the personal use fishery during the past three years has increased the harvest potential during the first six weeks of the fishery. Therefore, shorter fishing periods are necessary to prevent overharvest of early run stocks. For the period June 14 – June 20, the actual number of fish counted was 110,004, or 47,485 fish greater than the 62,519 fish projected to pass the sonar during this period. It is anticipated that the fish passing the sonar during this period will be available in the Chitina Subdistrict during the period, June 28 – July 5. Based upon river conditions the past several weeks and previous week's sonar counts, it is apparent that an abnormal daily passage rate of sockeye salmon past the Miles Lake sonar site is being experienced. There is some uncertainty regarding how long fish, now being counted by the sonar have been staging inriver, and therefore a conservative approach to liberalizing fishing time is warranted. Therefore in order to assure adequate passage (escapement) of early run salmon, the fourth personal use opening will remain at 132 hours. The preliminary schedule allowed 132 hours of fishing time during the fourth period (forecast based). Since the cumulative actual sonar counts are still below projected for the season there will be no increase of fishing time for the fourth period. The possibility still exists as the season progresses, as escapements improve, future openings could be increased accordingly.

As a reminder, the Copper River Personal Use Salmon fishery Management Plan and the Statewide Personal Use Regulations state that:

- Of the total bag limit only **four chinook salmon can be kept.**
- **Steelhead cannot be kept,** and must be returned to the water unharmed.
- When a harvestable surplus of 50,000 salmon or greater will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, by emergency order, a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued to personal use permit holders.
- The tips of the tail of personal use caught fish must be clipped **before** leaving the fishing site or concealing the fish from view.

DISTRIBUTION:

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game; Director, Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors, Division of Sport and Commercial Fisheries; Members of Board of Fisheries; Director, Fish and Wildlife Protection; Detachment Commander and Area Officer, Board of Fisheries Members; Local Fish and Game Advisory Chairman; Anchorage, Cook Inlet, Delta, Fairbanks and Palmer Area Biologists, Division of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries; Juneau, Region I; Anchorage, Region II; Fairbanks, Region III; and selected area newspapers, radio and television stations.

Division of Sport Fish
Kevin Delaney, Director

News Release

Immediate Release: June 22, 1999

AMENDMENT TO THE 1999 COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET FISHERY SCHEDULE

The Chitina Subdistrict will be open for dipnetting salmon from 8:00 A.M. Wednesday June 30 until 8:00 P.M. Monday July 5, and **potentially** reopen 12 noon Wednesday July 7 until 8:00 P.M. Sunday July 11. Additional emergency orders may change the fishing time of future openings based on actual numbers of fish passing the Miles Lake Sonar. After August 31, the fishery will remain open, by regulation, through September 30.

Salmon may be taken in the Chitina Subdistrict during the following time periods as established by emergency order (those openings not in **bold**, are preliminary and subject to change based upon actual sonar counts):

<u>Opening dates</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Friday June 11, 8:00 A.M. to Saturday June 12, 8:00 P.M.	36
Saturday June 19, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday June 20, 8:00 P.M.	36
Wednesday June 23, noon to Sunday June 27, 8:00 P.M.	104
Wednesday June 30, 8:00 A.M. to Monday July 5, 8:00 P.M.	132
Wednesday July 7, noon to Sunday July 11, 8:00 P.M.	104
Wednesday July 14, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday August 22, 8:00 P.M.	continuous
Wednesday August 25, 8:00 A.M. to Tuesday August 31, 11:59 P.M.	160
Wednesday September 1, 12:00 A.M. to September 30, 11:59 P.M.	continuous

As a reminder, the Copper River Personal Use Salmon fishery Management Plan and the Statewide Personal Use Regulations state that:

- Of the total bag limit only **four chinook salmon can be kept**.
- **Steelhead cannot be kept**, and must be returned to the water unharmed.
- When a harvestable surplus of 50,000 salmon or greater will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, by emergency order, a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued to personal use permit holders.
- The tips of the tail of personal use caught fish must be clipped **before** leaving the fishing site or concealing the fish from view.

For the period June 14 – June 20, the actual number of fish counted was 110,004, or 47,485 fish greater than the 62,519 fish projected to pass the sonar during this period. It is anticipated that the fish passing the sonar during this period will be available in the Chitina Subdistrict during the period, June 28 – July 5. Based upon river conditions the past several weeks and previous week's sonar counts, it is apparent that an abnormal daily passage rate of sockeye salmon past the Miles Lake sonar site is being experienced. There is some uncertainty regarding how long fish, now being counted by the sonar have been staging inriver, and therefore a conservative approach to liberalizing fishing time is warranted. Therefore in order to assure adequate passage (escapement) of early run salmon, the fourth personal use opening will remain at 132 hours. The preliminary schedule allowed 132 hours of fishing time during the fourth period (forecast based). Since the cumulative actual sonar counts are still below projected for the

season there will be no increase of fishing time for the fourth period. The possibility still exists as the season progresses, as escapements improve, future openings could be increased accordingly.

All residents of Alaska qualify to participate in this personal use fishery. A sport fishing license and a permit are required to participate in the personal use fishery. The permit fee is \$10.00. **Permits must be acquired prior to fishing and are available at the ADF&G office 5 miles north of Chitina on the Chitina airport road. Office hours, on days the fishery is open, are 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Fridays, and 8:00 a.m. to midnight Saturdays. The office will be open from noon to close on the day before the fishery opens. The office hours will be modified based on changes in the fishery schedule. The Chitina airport area is open to air travelers only, please keep off the airport parking pad and runway. Permits are also available from the Fairbanks Fish and Game office beginning May 24 during normal business hours.**

Immediately upon landing a salmon the personal use permit must be validated and the tips of the tail must be removed before leaving the fishing site or concealing the fish from view. At the end of each fishing trip the punch card portion of the permit must be returned to the Fish and Game office or the "drop box" near the office in Chitina. This card is on file at the Chitina office and available to the permit holder if he or she returns to fish again this season.

The fishery is operated by emergency order. Changes in these fishery openings will be announced at least 48 hours in advance. Information is available 24 hours each day at 822-5224 in Glennallen, 459-7382 in Fairbanks and 267-2511 in Anchorage

DISTRIBUTION:

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game; Director, Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors, Division of Sport and Commercial Fisheries; Members of Board of Fisheries; Director, Fish and Wildlife Protection; Detachment Commander and Area Officer, Local Fish and Game Advisory Chairman; Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound and Glennallen Area Biologists, Division of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries; Juneau, Region I; Fairbanks, Region III; and selected area newspapers, radio and television stations.