

# PERSONAL USE FISHERY

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-06-99

Issued at: Glennallen, June 28, 1999

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. June 29, 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Unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 July 5 – July 11. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 8:00 A.M. Wednesday June 30 and remain open until midnight August 31. 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.

In addition, this emergency order establishes the weekly period when a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River. Sonar counts at Miles Lake from June 21-27 exceeded the weekly escapement objective by over 53,800 fish. Based on migration timing studies, this surplus beyond escapement needs will be present within the Chitina Subdistrict from approximately July 12-18. Supplemental permits for the personal use fishery will be issued **only** at the Chitina Fish and Game office and valid from 8:00 A.M. July 12 to midnight July 18.

Salmon may be taken in the Chitina Subdistrict during the following time periods as established by emergency order:

<u>Opening dates</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<b>Friday June 11, 8:00 A.M. to Saturday June 12, 8:00 P.M.</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Saturday June 19, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday June 20, 8:00 P.M.</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Wednesday June 23, noon to Sunday June 27, 8:00 P.M.</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Wednesday June 30, 8:00 A.M. to Tuesday August 31, 11:59 P.M.</b>	<b>continuous</b>
<b>Wednesday September 1, 12:00 A.M. to September 30, 11:59 P.M.</b>	<b>continuous</b>

### REGULATION:

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

*(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.”*

*(e)“The seasonal limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than four may be chinook salmon. However, when the Department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 salmon or greater will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which time the Department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the seasonal limit. Chinook salmon may not be taken under the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit. (Eff. 4/28/84, Register 90; am 5/11/85, Register 94; am 7/1/86, Register 99; am 3/29/87, Register 101; am 4/30/91, Register 118; am 5/4/94, Register 130; am 5/24/97, Register 142; am 4/23/98, Register 146)”*

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 July 5 - 11. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 8:00 A.M. Wednesday June 30 and remain open until midnight Tuesday August 31. 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

A supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued from July 12-18. This permit will be valid from 8:00 A.M. Monday July 12 to midnight Sunday July 18. This permit will be available to those personal use permit applicants who have already met the seasonal bag limit. Additional supplemental permits will be issued to those permittees who have met the bag limit of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Frank Rue  
Commissioner

by delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Taube  
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

For the period June 21 – June 27, the actual number of fish counted was 105,056, or 53,876 fish greater than the 51,180 fish projected to pass the sonar during this period. In addition, for the previous period, June 14 – 20, 47,485 fish greater than the projected passed the sonar. It is anticipated that the majority of fish passing the sonar during these periods will be available in the Chitina Subdistrict during the period, July 5 - 18. As of June 27, the cumulative actual escapement is 362,557, or 29,352 fish greater than the 333,205 fish projected passed the sonar by this date. This surplus of fish during the past two weekly periods justifies opening the personal use fishery to continuous 7 days a week fishing for the remainder of the season. If the actual sonar numbers indicate below projected escapement during any weekly periods in the future, fishing time will be reduced accordingly.

The Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan dictates that if the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 salmon or greater will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued to a permit applicant who has met the seasonal limit. The actual numbers of fish passing the Miles Lake sonar have exceeded the daily escapement objective since June 10. From June 21-27, the escapement objective was exceeded by 53,876 salmon. Based on previous migration timing studies, this surplus will be available to the personal use fishery during the 12-18 June period.

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 28, 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 through August 31. 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.

In addition, this emergency order establishes the weekly period when a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River. Sonar counts at Miles Lake from June 21-27 exceeded the weekly escapement objective by over 53,800 fish. Based on migration timing studies, this surplus beyond escapement needs will be present within the Chitina Subdistrict from approximately July 12-18. Supplemental permits for the personal use fishery will be issued **only** at the Chitina Fish and Game office and valid from 8:00 A.M. July 12 to midnight July 18.

Salmon may be taken in the Chitina Subdistrict during the following time periods as established by emergency order:

<u>Opening dates</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<b>Friday June 11, 8:00 A.M. to Saturday June 12, 8:00 P.M.</b>	<b>36</b>
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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 21 – 27, the actual number of fish counted was 105,056, or 53,876 fish greater than the 51,180 fish projected to pass the sonar during this period. In addition, for the previous period, June 14 – 20, 47,485 fish greater than the projected passed the sonar. It is anticipated that the majority of fish passing the sonar during these periods will be available in the Chitina Subdistrict during the period, July 5 - 18. As of June 27, the cumulative actual escapement is 362,557, or 29,352 fish greater than the 333,205 fish projected passed the sonar by this date. This surplus of fish during the past two weekly

periods justifies opening the personal use fishery to continuous 7 days a week fishing for the remainder of the season. If the actual sonar numbers indicate below projected escapement during any weekly periods in the future, fishing time will be reduced accordingly.

The Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan dictates that if the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 salmon or greater will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be issued to a permit applicant who has met the seasonal limit. The actual numbers of fish passing the Miles Lake sonar have exceeded the daily escapement objective since June 10. From June 21-27, the escapement objective was exceeded by 53,876 salmon. Based on previous migration timing studies, this surplus will be available to the personal use fishery during the 12-18 June period.

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.