

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. **2-KS-2-17-02**

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday, July 2,
2002

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Friday, July 5, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Sunday, July
7, 2002, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens Willow and Sheep creeks to king salmon fishing from their mouths to their Parks Highway bridges, including all waters within 1/4-mile of their confluences with the Susitna River; and Montana Creek from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1/2 mile upstream of the Parks Highway bridge, and all waters within a 1/4-mile radius of the confluence of Montana Creek and the Susitna River. This additional opening is effective beginning 6:00 a.m. July 5 through 11:00 p.m. July 7. Fishing will only be allowed between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The daily bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or more in length in these waters is one fish. Bait is not allowed and harvest recording requirements apply.

REGULATION:

The following provisions of 5 AAC 61.022 (e)(6), (e)(10), and (e)(11) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 61.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA-WEST COOK INLET AREA

(e) (6) the **Sheep Creek** drainage from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway bridge and all waters of the Susitna River within a 1/4-mile radius of the confluence of Sheep Creek and the Susitna River is open to king salmon fishing from July 5 – July 7; fishing is not allowed for any species of finfish from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

(e)(10) the **Montana Creek** drainage from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1/2-mile upstream of the Parks Highway bridge and all waters of the Susitna River within a 1/4-mile radius of the confluence of Montana Creek and the Susitna River is open to king salmon fishing from July 5 – July 7; fishing is not allowed for any species of finfish from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

(e)(11) the **Willow Creek** drainage from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway bridge and all waters of the Susitna River within a 1/4-mile radius of the confluence of Willow Creek and the Susitna River is open to king salmon fishing from July 5 – July 7; fishing is not allowed for any species of finfish from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Frank Rue,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dave Rutz,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon are now well distributed throughout Susitna River tributary streams. Boat and foot surveys were conducted to count king salmon in sections of Montana, Sheep and Willow creeks. Based on these surveys, the Department projects that the upper bounds of the Sustainable Escapement Goals (SEG) for spawning king salmon in Montana (SEG 990-1,700), Sheep (SEG 550-1,200), and Willow (SEG 1,400-2,400) creeks will be exceeded and a harvestable surplus is available. It is therefore justified to add three days of recreational fishing to these fisheries. It is anticipated that the king salmon harvest during the additional three days of fishing will not lower escapements below the respective SEG ranges.

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.