

SUBSISTENCE FISHERY

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-03-02

Issued at: Glennallen, June 3, 2002

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. June 4, 2002

Expiration Date: December 31, 2002
Unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order amends the schedule for the subsistence dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River for the period June 10 - 16, 2002. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 8:00 A.M. Monday June 10 until 8:00 P.M. Sunday June 16, and will potentially reopen from 12 noon Monday June 17 through 8:00 P.M. Sunday June 23. **Tentative openings after this period are listed in the schedule below.** Additional emergency orders will likely change this schedule 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 (periods in **bold** indicate previous or current openings):

Saturday June 8, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday June 9, 8:00 P.M.
Monday June 10, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday June 16, 8:00 P.M.
Monday June 17, 12 noon to Sunday June 23, 8:00 P.M.
Monday June 24, 12:01 A.M. to Sunday June 30, 12 midnight
Tuesday July 2, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday July 7, 8:00 P.M.
Thursday July 11, 12 noon to Sunday July 14, 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday July 17, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday July 21, 12 midnight
Monday July 22, 12:01 A.M. to Saturday August 31, 12 midnight.

REGULATION:

Consistent with the COPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 01.647 (k),

“In the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District, the subsistence salmon fishery shall be managed as follows:

- (1) the commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, 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 preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season;*
- (2) the commissioner may close, by an emergency order effective June 1, the Chitina Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before June 11, depending on the strength and timing of the sockeye salmon run; adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on*

actual sonar counts compared to the projected counts; if the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is greater than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close the season by emergency order and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times shall be established; if the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close the season by emergency order and immediately reopen it, during which fishing times shall be reduced by a corresponding percentage;”

The following amendment is made to the preseason schedule for the subsistence dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River area for the period of June 10 – 16. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 8:00 A.M. Monday June 10 until 8:00 P.M. Sunday June 16, and could potentially reopen 12 noon Monday June 17 through 8:00 P.M. Sunday June 23. Openings after this period are listed within the preceding schedule. These openings may be increased or decreased 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 will establish a schedule for the fishery based on the pre-season projection of salmon passing the Miles Lake sonar station. The cumulative count of fish passing the sonar for the period May 27 – June 2, was 70,783 salmon, whereas the projected cumulative count during this period was 68,400 salmon. The previous three-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to allow an additional four hours of fishing time during the corresponding fishing period. Future openings will be based upon actual sonar numbers and weekly periods will be reduced or increased accordingly.

As a reminder, the Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plan and the Statewide Subsistence Fishing Regulations state that:

- Of the total bag limit only **one 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 Chitina Subdistrict subsistence permit holders.
- Harvest must be recorded before leaving the fishing site.
- The tips of the tail of subsistence caught fish must be clipped **immediately** upon landing a fish.

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.