

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. **2-KS-2-12-03**

Issued at: Palmer, July 1, 2003

Effective 6:00 a.m.,  
Date: Friday, July 4, 2003

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., July 6, 2003,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency  
order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens Willow, and Sheep creeks to king salmon fishing from their mouths to the Parks Highway bridge, and including all waters within a 1/4-mile radius 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 its confluence with the Susitna River.

This additional opening is effective 6:00 a.m. July 4 through 11:00 p.m. July 6. Fishing will be allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in these waters is one fish.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.022 (c)(1) and (e)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

#### **5 AAC 61.022 (e) WATERS, SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA-WEST COOK INLET AREA.**

(c)(1) The following waters of the Susitna River Drainage upstream from its confluence with the Deshka River to its confluence with the Talkeetna River, excluding the Talkeetna River drainage, are open to king salmon fishing from July 4 through July 6. Fishing is allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish and the annual limit of five fish remains in place:

**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 its confluence with the Susitna River.

**Sheep Creek** drainage: from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway bridge and all waters within a 1/4-mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River.

**Willow Creek** drainage: from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway bridge and all waters within a 1/4 mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River.

Kevin C. Duffy,  
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 survey counts, 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 by 25% and a harvestable surplus will be available. It is therefore justified to add three days of recreational fishing to these fisheries. It is anticipated that not more than 1,000 king salmon will be harvested by allowing fishing to occur on Friday July 4 through Sunday July 6, 2003.

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.