

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-09-09

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, June 11, 2009

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 13, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Monday, July 13,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency  
order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-09, issued on Monday, April 20, 2009. This emergency order closes the Deshka River to fishing for king salmon effective at 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 13, through 11:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2009. The area closed to king salmon fishing is from the mouth of the Deshka River upstream to an ADF&G marker located near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and all waters within a one-half mile radius of the Deshka River's confluence with the Susitna River. The use of bait in these waters is also prohibited.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. (6)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 13, through 11:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2009:

### **5AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

(6) in the Deshka River drainage, including Trapper Lake,

(B) from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon; from June 13 – July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; from July 14 – August 31, bait may be used; the remainder of the drainage is closed from January 1 – December 31 to sport fishing for king salmon;

Denby S. Lloyd,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Dave Rutz,  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon in the Deshka River is 13,000 to 28,000 fish, as measured at the weir located at river mile seven. Based upon average run timing, approximately 15% of the escapement should have passed the weir by June 10. At this time only 865 fish have passed the weir and the total escapement is projected to be approximately 5,623 fish. Based on the average to late run timing model, it is likely the escapement goal will not be achieved. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003. EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY (1)(A), the department may, by emergency order, decrease sport fish bag and possession limits and annual limits and restrict methods and means of harvest when the total escapement is projected to be less than the escapement goal. Therefore, it is warranted to close sport fishing for king salmon in the Deshka River and prohibit the use of bait.

The average total harvest from the Deshka River is an estimated 7,800 king salmon per year. The average sport harvest is 6,600, with more than 50% occurring prior to June 15. If the run is indeed weak and harvest is not restricted, it is likely that the escapement goal will not be achieved in 2009. Restrictive measures taken in 2008 likely resulted in about a 30% reduction in harvest. Despite these restrictions and the eventual closure of the sport fishery the BEG was not achieved.

By closing the Deshka River to king salmon fishing on June 13 it is anticipated that average sport harvest could be reduced by as much as 80%. The Northern District commercial king salmon fishery will be closed for the remaining two regularly scheduled periods as per section (10) of the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 21.366).

The department maintains a fish counting weir at mile 7 of the Deshka River to count the king salmon escapement. Fish passage data from the weir will allow the department to closely monitor the escapement on a daily basis. If fish passage through the weir indicates a stronger run than projected, restrictions may be lifted.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order 2-KS-2-06-09, which restricted bait and the sport harvest of Deshka River king salmon to three days a week, is rescinded.

**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.