

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-02-09

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Wednesday June 10, 2009

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Monday June 15, 2009

**Expiration Date:** December 31, 2009, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

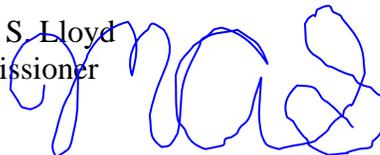
### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or more in length in the Upper Copper River drainage from four to two fish. In addition, no more than one king salmon of the two fish annual limit may be retained from any individual tributary or the mainstem of the Copper River after June 15, 2009. Any king salmon recorded prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest card does not count against the two king salmon that may be harvested after June 15.

### REGULATION:

Consistent with the COPPER RIVER KING SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 24.361, the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or more in length will be reduced to two in the Upper Copper River drainage. Effective 12:01 a.m. Monday June 15, only one king salmon of the annual limit of two for the Upper Copper River drainage may be taken from an individual tributary or the mainstem of the Copper River.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner



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

Mark A. Somerville  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The 2009 king salmon return to the Copper River drainage is currently less than expected. The Department has been directed by the Board of Fisheries to manage the commercial and sport fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal in the upper Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. A total of 7,671 king salmon have been harvested within the Copper River District commercial gillnet fishery as of June 9. This is the lowest commercial king salmon harvest through this date since at least 1969. As of June 9, zero king salmon have past the Gulkana River counting tower. Cumulative counts from 2002 – 2008, through June 9<sup>th</sup>, have averaged 39 king salmon with only 3 out of 7 years observing no king salmon past the tower by that date. In addition, the cumulative catch of king salmon in the Native Village of Eyak research fish wheels at Baird Canyon are the lowest since 2003. Copper River king salmon migratory timing and five year average harvest rates indicate insufficient numbers of king salmon to sustain the king salmon sport fishery and still attain a spawning escapement of 24,000 or more king salmon to the Copper River. Therefore,

restriction of the king salmon sport harvest is warranted. Further action may be required dependent on run strength as the season progresses.

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