

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-05-09

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday July 22, 2009

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday July 27, 2009

Expiration Date: August 11, 2009, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds emergency order 3-KS-03-09 issued on Tuesday June 23, 2009. This emergency order prohibits retention of king salmon from the Klutina River and all waters of the Upper Copper River drainage downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River effective 12:01 a.m. Monday July 27, 2009. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately. The use of bait in these waters is also prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of **5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.** (3)(A), (12)(E) and (G), (25)(A), and (E), and (32) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday July 27, 2009:

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(3) in the Copper River drainage, downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River,

(A) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(12) in the Klutina River drainage only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – July 31; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

(G) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 13 on the Klutina Lake Road, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – August 10, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

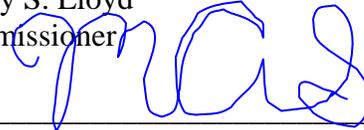
(25) in the Tonsina River drainage,

(A) in all flowing waters downstream from the outlet of Tonsina Lake, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the downstream edge of the Alyeska Pipeline crossing bridge, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – August 10, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

(32) in the Copper River drainage, downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River, sport fishing for king salmon is allowed only from July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner



by delegation to: _____

Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2009 king salmon return to the Klutina River and Copper River drainage downstream of the Klutina River is lower than expected. Aerial survey indices were flown on July 17 for five clearwater king salmon spawning streams in the Tazlina, Klutina, and Tonsina river drainages. These indices were an average 62% below the historic average index for the streams surveyed.

The Native Village of Eyak operates fishwheels located in Baird Canyon and at Canyon Creek as part of a mark-recapture study for king and sockeye salmon. The catch rate of king salmon in these wheels has been low throughout the season and captures dropped off to less than 20 king salmon per day in the Baird Canyon wheels on June 26 and in the Canyon Creek Wheels on July 4. This is one week earlier than average.

Reports from Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fish wheels indicate that king salmon harvests have declined over the past two weeks. Angler reports during the last two weeks indicate king salmon are present in the Klutina and Tonsina rivers, with good catch rates for guided anglers and mixed success for non-guided anglers. The king salmon migratory timing and five-year average harvest rates for the Klutina River and Copper River drainage downstream of the Klutina River indicate insufficient numbers of king salmon to sustain the king salmon sport fishery and still attain adequate spawning escapement into Copper River tributaries. Consistent with 5 AAC 24.361, Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, retention of king salmon in the Klutina River and the Upper Copper River drainage downstream of the Klutina River is prohibited for the remainder of the king salmon sport fishing season. In addition, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used in the Klutina River drainage, Tonsina River drainage and the Copper River mainstem.

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.