

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-09

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday May 28, 2009

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday June 1, 2009

Expiration Date: December 31, 2009, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sport fishing bag and possession limit for king salmon to one king salmon in all tributaries of the Yukon River (excluding the Tanana River drainage), effective 12:01 a.m. Monday June 1, 2009. This emergency order also prohibits the retention of king salmon in the mainstem Yukon River, effective 12:01 a.m. Monday June 1, 2009.

All king salmon caught from tributaries of the Yukon River that exceed the bag and possession limit of one king salmon and all king salmon caught from the mainstem Yukon River must be released immediately back into the water unharmed.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.013. SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS IN THE YUKON RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA (b)(1) and (c)(7) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 70.013. SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS IN THE YUKON RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA.

(b)(1) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length: the bag and possession limit is one fish.

(c)(7) in the mainstem of the Yukon River, king salmon may not be retained or possessed.

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____

John M. Burr
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Current projections suggest that the Yukon River king salmon run in 2009 will be weak and similar in abundance to the run in 2008. In 2008, the interim management escapement goal of >45,000 fish into Canada was not attained in spite of reductions in subsistence fishing time in the mainstem Yukon River, a reduction in the sport bag limit, and no commercial fishery directed at king salmon.

To conserve king salmon bound for Canada, there will be no fishing (commercial, sport, or subsistence) on the first pulse of king salmon in the Yukon River. As the first pulse passes, the subsistence fishery will be opened to reduced (one-half) fishing time. The anticipated low abundance of king salmon into the Yukon River, the recent failures to reach boarder passage goals, and restrictions placed on the subsistence fishery warrant a reduction in the sport king salmon bag and possession limit in the tributaries of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) and prohibit the retention of king salmon in the Yukon River mainstem.

DISTRIBUTION:

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