

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-24-10

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, June 24, 2010

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 26, 2010

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Tuesday,
July 13, 2010, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or longer in Unit 4 (Yentna River Drainage) of the Susitna River Drainage from five fish to one fish. This emergency order is effective from 6 a.m., Saturday, June 26, through 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2010. Any king salmon recorded before Saturday, June 26 on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card does not count against the one king salmon that may be harvested after June 25. The area affected by this emergency order includes the flowing waters, lakes, and ponds of the Yentna River Drainage. Some of the more popular fisheries within Unit 4 include Lake, Canyon, Fish Lakes, Eight Mile, Moose, Indian, Peters, and Red creeks and the Talachulitna River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.118, Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. (4) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 26, through 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2010:

5AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one per day and one in possession; the annual limit is one king salmon greater than 20 inches in length and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 61.124; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length removed from the water shall be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon returns have been below average to poor over the past three years in Northern Cook Inlet waters. Only about half the escapement goals were achieved in each of the past two years. Lake Creek in the Yentna Drainage has not met its escapement goal in the past two years. Angler reports and onsite staff surveys have again indicated a below average run at a time when sport fish harvest in these streams should be high. Reducing the annual harvest limit could reduce harvest by more than 50% during the remainder of the king salmon sport fishing season, which should be sufficient to attain escapement goals in Unit 4. 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 reduce the annual harvest limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in Units 4 of the Susitna Drainage.

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.