

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-05-11

Issued at: Glennallen, Tuesday June 21, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday June 27, 2011

Expiration Date: December 31, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order amends the schedule for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River for the period June 27 – July 3, 2011. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 27 until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 3.

In addition, this emergency order **closes the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery to the retention of king salmon** for the remainder of the 2011 season. King salmon incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

REGULATION:

Consistent with the COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 77.591, the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will be open from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 27 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 3. In addition, the retention of king salmon is prohibited for conservation reasons to achieve the Copper River king salmon escapement goal.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____


Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

During June 13 – June 19, there were 43,204 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The pre-season projection for this period was 55,779 salmon, which results in a deficit of 12,575 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon to maintain 168 hours of fishing time during the week of June 27 – July 3.

A total of 17,370 king salmon have been harvested within the Copper River District commercial gillnet fishery as of June 17. This is 10,308 fish below the last 10-year average of 27,678 king salmon. As of June 19, a total of 132 king salmon have passed the Gulkana River counting tower. Cumulative counts from 2002 – 2010, through June 19, have averaged 448 king salmon with only 1 out of 9 years observing less than 162 king salmon past the tower by that date. In addition, cumulative catch rates through June 19 in the Native Village of Eyak sampling fishwheels are the

second lowest for this date since the sampling project was begun in 2003. Copper River king salmon migratory timing and five year average harvest rates indicate insufficient numbers of king salmon to sustain a king salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict and still attain a spawning escapement of 24,000 or more king salmon in the Copper River drainage.

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