

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-15-12

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, June 18, 2012

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Friday, July 13, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Deshka River and all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River beginning at 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 20, through 11:00 p.m., Friday, July 13, 2012. This emergency order also prohibits sport fishing for king salmon in waters of the Deshka River upstream of the weir, located at River Mile 7, when fishing in the Deshka River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage area. (6)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2012, through 11:00 p.m., Friday, July 13, 2012:

5AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage area.

(6) in the Deshka River drainage, including Trapper Lake,

(B) from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located 300 feet downstream of the weir (River Mile 7), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, king salmon may be taken January 1 - July 13, from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (River Mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, only one, unbaited, single hook, artificial lure may be used; the remainder of the drainage is closed from January 1 – December 31 to sport fishing for king salmon;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for king salmon in the Deshka River is 13,000 to 28,000 fish, as measured at the weir located at River Mile seven. On average, approximately 50 percent of the escapement has passed the weir by June 18 or approximately 15,000 king salmon. As of June 17, 4,776 king salmon have passed the weir. The projected escapement based upon average and late-run timing models ranges from 11,200 to 16,130 fish. At this time, the department is unable to predict with certainty that the Deshka River king salmon escapement will attain the SEG. Therefore, it is warranted to slow the harvest of fish by prohibiting the use of bait, limiting sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only, and prohibiting sport fishing for king salmon upstream of the weir. Further restrictions may be forthcoming if weir counts do not improve and projections of escapement remain below the SEG.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency order No. 2-KS-2-06-12, which reduced the annual limit to 2 king salmon greater than 20 inches in length and allowed the use of one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only in Units 1- 6 of the Susitna River drainage remains in effect.

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.