

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-09-12

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, July 27, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 30, 2012

Expiration Date: December 31, 2012
Unless superseded by subsequent
Emergency Order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in all waters of the Chena River drainage and the Tanana River within a 1/2 mile radius of the mouth of the Chena River effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 30, 2012. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. (c)(3)(C) and (c)(32)(A) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 30, 2012:

5 AAC 74.010 Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(c)(3) in the Chena River and its tributaries,

(C) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(32) in the Tanana River within a 1/2 mile radius of the mouth of the Chena River,

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____



Audra L. J. Brase
Tanana River Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As of Friday, July 27, the estimated cumulative king salmon escapement in the Chena River was below the biological escapement goal (BEG) lower bound of 2,800 fish by approximately 1,400 king salmon. Projected escapements based on current run strength indicate that the Chena River king salmon stock cannot support a sport harvest during the remainder of the run. Closing the king salmon sport fishery is warranted to conserve all remaining Chena River king salmon.

The Tanana River drainage king salmon sport fisheries are managed under the provisions set forth in 5 AAC 74.060 *Chena and Salcha River King Salmon Sport Harvest Management Plan* using inseason estimated run abundance and escapement information from the Tanana River and its major king salmon spawning tributaries, the Chena and Salcha Rivers. The plan states that the fisheries will be managed to achieve escapements in the Salcha and Chena rivers that fall within the BEG ranges. The king salmon BEG range for the Chena River is 2,800 – 5,700 fish.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7228.