

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-04-12

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 22, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order Nos. 3-KS-01-12 and 3-KS-03-12, issued in Fairbanks on April 13 and June 11, 2012. This emergency order closes all waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 22, 2012. In addition, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the entire Kuskokwim River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (c)(1)(A) and (c)(3)(A) are superseded and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 22, 2012, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012:

5 AAC 71.010 SEASONS AND BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, FOR THE KUSKOKWIM-GOODNEWS AREA

(c)(1)(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed.

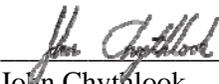
(c)(3)(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(d)(1)(G) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim River drainage not specified in (d)(1)(A-D).

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



John Chythlook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Poor king salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) for this date at the Bethel Test Fishery indicate poorer than expected returns of king salmon for this date.

Preseason projections had suggested that the Kuskokwim River king salmon run in 2012 would be weak. In 2011, the Kwethluk and Tuluksak did not achieve king salmon sustainable escapement goals for the fourth and fifth consecutive years. The George River has not achieved its SEG in three of the past four years.

Aerial survey indices on Aniak River tributaries, Kipchuck and Salmon Rivers were amongst the lowest on record in 2011. The anticipated poor return, recent failures to meet escapement goals in Kuskokwim River tributaries, and continued indications of a poor run in the Bethel test fishery catches warrants a total closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-12, that closed select tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012, and Emergency Order No. 3-KS-03-12, that reduced the bag and possession limit for king salmon to one in all tributaries of the Kuskokwim River that were not closed by Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-12 and closed the mainstem Kuskokwim River to sport fishing for king salmon are superseded.

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.