

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-28-12

Issued at: Kodiak, Wednesday,
June 28, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 29, 2012

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July 25, 2012, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon, prohibits the use of bait, and allows only single-hook, artificial lures with a gap of 3/8-inch or less in all waters of the Sapsuk (also known as Nelson) River drainage effective 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 29, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 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 caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (e) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 29, 2012 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(e) In the Sapsuk (also known as Nelson) River drainage from June 29 through July 25, fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures with a gap of 3/8 inch or less may be used.

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Donn Tracy,
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Sapsuk (also known as Nelson) River king salmon is 2,400 to 4,400 fish. On average, approximately 1,312 king salmon have passed the weir by June 26. At this time, only 31 king salmon have passed the weir. Even assuming late run timing, and considering high water conditions, the current weir count indicates the escapement goal will not be achieved. In order to conserve escapement it is warranted to close the Sapsuk River drainage to fishing for king salmon. In addition, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures with a gap of 3/8 inch or less may be used minimize mortality of released king salmon.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.