

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-49-12

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, August 3, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, August 6, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday,  
September 30, 2012, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait on the Little Susitna River effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, August 6, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, September 30, 2012. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway. A person who takes a bag limit of salmon 16 inches long or longer from the Little Susitna River may not fish for any species of fish in the Little Susitna River downstream of the Parks Highway that same day.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 ACC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area. (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning Monday, August 6, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, September 30, 2012:

#### **5 ACC 60.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) from August 6 - September 30, in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 10,100–17,700 fish. In 2009-2011, the SEG was not achieved. Harvest can exceed escapement on average to below-average run years due to the high effort in this sport fishery. By August 6, as much as 50 percent of the harvest has typically taken place in the sport fishery. While it is currently too early in the run to project escapement, daily weir counts are below average. As of August 1, only 120 coho had passed upstream of the weir. The sport fish exit survey conducted at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility indicates below-average catch rates and is supported by guide and angler reports of low fishing success under good fishing conditions.

Based on these run strength indices, it is justified to slow the harvest of coho salmon at the Little Susitna to ensure the SEG is met.

**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.