

# PERSONAL USE FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-04-13

Issued at: Glennallen, Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 24, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2013,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order amends the schedule for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River for the period June 24 – June 30, 2013. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 24 until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 30. In addition, this emergency order establishes the weekly period when a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon will be valid for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River.

Also, this emergency order closes the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery to the retention of king salmon. King salmon incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

### REGULATION:

Consistent with the COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 77.591, the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will be open from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 24 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 30. During this period an additional 10 sockeye salmon may be harvested by a permit holder who has already harvested their original permit limit. In addition, the retention of king salmon is prohibited for conservation reasons to achieve the Copper River king salmon escapement goal.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

by delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mark A. Somerville  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

During June 10 – June 16, there were 426,890 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 73,654 salmon, which results in a surplus of 353,236 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to maintain 168 hours of fishing time during the week of June 24–June 30. In addition, an excess of more than 50,000 salmon above the preseason sonar projection for this period allows a supplemental harvest of 10 additional sockeye salmon to those permit holders who have already harvested their original permit limit.

Based on the 2013 preseason forecast, king salmon runs into the Copper River are expected to be poor. Initial low harvest trends in the Copper River District commercial fishery in May and current low catch rates in the Native Village of Eyak research fish wheels are consistent with the preseason forecast. The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* directs the Department to manage the Copper River fisheries to

achieve a sustainable escapement goal in the upper Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. From 2002–2008, Copper River king salmon escapement averaged 33,316 fish, but has ranged from 16,771 to 27,994 fish since 2009. The preseason forecast, inseason run strength indicators, and generally poor stock performance trend over the last 4 years indicate the need to take precautionary action in the personal use dip net fishery to ensure achievement of the king salmon sustainable escapement goal.

**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) 459-7357 and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.