

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-05-13

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday, June 27, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the mainstem Kuskokwim River to king salmon fishing from the mouth of the river to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk, effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2013. All king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, this emergency order also requires only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the mainstem Kuskokwim River downstream of the line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk. These restrictions will remain in effect through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2013.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (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., Saturday, June 29, 2013, through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2013:

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

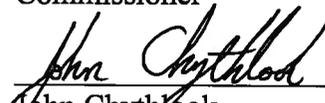
(c)(10) in the mainstem Kuskokwim River downstream of a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed. All king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(d)(1) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the

(G) in the mainstem Kuskokwim River downstream of a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:


John Chythlook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Preseason projections suggested that the Kuskokwim River king salmon run in 2013 will be below average, similar to 2012 when the Kuskokwim River experienced an estimated total run of approximately 97,000 and spawning escapement of approximately 77,000 fish. Most king salmon assessment projects in the Kuskokwim River drainage have not achieved the sustainable escapement goals in recent years. Current data from the Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) project indicates that king salmon escapement goals will likely be met; however projections are near the lower end of the Drainagewide Sustainable Escapement Goal (65,000–120,000) and declining BTF king salmon catches cause reason for concern. BTF indicates high abundances of sockeye and chum salmon at this time. Given the uncertainty of inseason run assessment, gillnet mesh restrictions in the subsistence fishery as well as rolling closures in the rod and reel subsistence fishery will also be implemented.

The projected poor king salmon run and recent failures to meet escapement goals in the Kuskokwim River tributaries warrants a closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks in the Kuskokwim River mainstem.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-02-13, that closed certain tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2012, remains in effect.

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) 459-7207.