

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-31-14

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, July 2, 2014

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Friday, July 4, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-21-14, issued in Palmer on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. This emergency order opens the Little Susitna River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon, seven days per week beginning Friday, July 4, 2014. The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater is one per day, one in possession. Only unbaited, artificial lures are allowed. The combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River, as issued in Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-7-14, remains in effect.

This emergency order is effective from 6:00 a.m., Friday, July 4, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area. (9)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, July 4, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014:

5AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from July 4 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway sport fishing is open for king salmon; bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Samantha Oslund,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for the Little Susitna River is 900-1,800 king salmon based on a post season aerial survey. To date, 2,367 king salmon have passed the Little Susitna weir, which is located at approximately river mile 32.5 and four miles upstream of the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). Comparisons of weir counts and aerial survey estimates indicate 40-60% of the fish passed through the weir were accounted for in the aerial survey in 2013. At this time it is justified to allow harvest on the Little Susitna River king salmon fishery with a restricted annual limit. As the Little Susitna king salmon run approaches its end, the anticipated harvest from this action is not expected to reduce the spawning escapement below the SEG.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-21-14, closing the Little Susitna River to fishing for king salmon, is superseded by this emergency order and is no longer in effect.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-07-14 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River. This emergency order remains in effect through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 2014.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.