

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-01-15

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 20, 2015

Expiration Date: December 31, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit in the Copper River drainage for sockeye salmon 16 inches or longer. Beginning at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 20, the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Copper River drainage is six fish.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. (a)(4)(A) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 20, 2015:

### **5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.**

(a)(4) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken only from January 1 – December 31, as follows;

(A) greater than 16 inches in length; bag and possession limit of six fish of which only three per day and in possession may be pink, chum, or coho salmon;

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

by delegation to:

  
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Mark A. Somerville  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal for sockeye salmon in the Copper River drainage is 360,000–750,000 fish. The 2015 inriver goal for the upper Copper River is 759,000 salmon. As of June 16, the Miles Lake sonar cumulative count was 754,211 salmon. Based on current sonar counts and projected counts for the remainder of the run, the 2015 sockeye salmon escapement is expected to exceed the upper bound of the sustainable escapement goal. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003 (2)(A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the escapement goal. Therefore, it is warranted to provide additional harvest opportunity and increase the sockeye salmon bag and possession limit in the upper Copper River drainage.

**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.