

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-11

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Effective date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters to sport fishing for king salmon in Kuskokuak Slough between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream and downstream mouth of the slough including all waters of the old Kuskokuak slough; the Kisaralik, Kasigluk, and Kwethluk River drainages to their confluence with Kuskokuak Slough; and the Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream to the upstream side of Mishevik Slough effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (c)(1)(A)(i) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2011:

#### **5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area.**

(c)(1)(A)(i) In all waters of the Tuluksak, Kwethluk, Kisaralik and Kasigluk river drainages, and Kuskokuak Slough effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 1, 2011 sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon unintentionally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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John Chythlook  
Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The current outlook for Kuskokwim River king salmon in 2011 is similar to 2010 when the Kuskokwim River experienced an estimated total run of 142,796 and spawning escapement of 56,000 fish (both the lowest on record). In 2010, the Kwethluk and Tuluksak rivers did not achieve the established king salmon sustainable escapement goals (SEG's) for the third and fourth consecutive years, respectively. The Kisaralik River also did not meet the established SEG for the first time in 2010. Kuskokuak Slough drains the Kwethluk and Kisaralik/Kasigluk rivers, therefore closure of the slough to fishing is viewed as a necessary conservation measure in addition to the closure of the rivers themselves. Both state and

federal subsistence fisheries for king salmon will have closures concurrent with the sport fishery closure.

The Department will continue to evaluate inseason run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement goals in these Kuskokwim River drainages will be met, restrictions will be relaxed.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner, Governor's Fisheries Policy Advisor, Department of Fish and Game; Director, Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors, Division of Sport and Commercial Fisheries; Members of Board of Fisheries; Director, Fish and Wildlife Protection; Detachment Commander and Area Officer, Board of Fisheries Members; Local Fish and Game Advisory Chairman; AYK Sport Fish Area Biologists, Division of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries; Juneau, Region I; Anchorage, Region II; Fairbanks, Region III; and selected area newspapers, and radio stations.

List is available at ADF&G, Sport Fish Division, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701.