

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-05-11

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday July 20, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday July 23, 2011

Expiration Date: August 31, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits retention of king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday July 23, 2011. The use of bait in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage is also prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. (b)(1) and (d)(2), (5)(B), (15), (16)(B), and (18) are superseded and (d)(22) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday July 23, 2011:

5 AAC 74.010. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(b)(1) king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(d) In the Tanana River Management Area, the following special provisions to methods and means apply:

(22) in all flowing waters of the Tanana River tributaries the use of bait is prohibited;

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



Audra L. J. Brase
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Monitoring projects in the Yukon and Tanana rivers and anecdotal reports from subsistence, personal use and sport fishermen suggest that the 2011 king salmon return to the Tanana River is low.

The salmon counting towers on the Chena and Salcha rivers have not been operational this season due to high and turbid water conditions; therefore it is unknown how many king salmon are currently in the river and it is unlikely that an accurate estimate of escapement will be produced this year. Sonar equipment in the Chena River and boat surveys of the Salcha River indicate few king salmon in those rivers. The Goodpaster River counting tower is operating, but counts are below the average for this date.

This action closing the Tanana River king salmon sport fisheries to retention is consistent with measures that have been taken throughout the Yukon River drainage to conserve king salmon.

DISTRIBUTION:

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