

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-SS-01-12

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday., October 3, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, October 6, 2012

Expiration Date: December 31, 2012

Unless superseded by subsequent Emergency Order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits retention of coho salmon in all waters of the Delta Clearwater River, including the Clearwater Lake drainage effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, October 6, 2012. Coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. (c)(5)(A) and (B) are superseded and added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, October 6, 2012:

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

(c)(5) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage,

- (A) Arctic grayling may be taken by catch-and-release fishing only, except that from June 1 through December 31, a person may retain Arctic grayling, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;
- (B) coho salmon may be taken by catch-and-release fishing only; coho salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____



Audra L. J. Brase
Tanana River Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Delta Clearwater River coho salmon sport fishery is managed using inseason escapement information. The fishery management objective is to achieve an escapement that falls within the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range of 5,200 – 17,000 fish.

On Friday, September 28 only 305 coho salmon were observed in the Delta Clearwater River from the campground to its confluence with the Tanana River. The management objectives state the sport fishery may be closed if less than 1,500 coho salmon are found in the lower eight miles of the river during a survey performed between September 15 and October 1. Although this count is very low, there may be coho salmon still holding downriver and may arrive late to the Delta Clearwater River since the middle Tanana River had an unusually high water event in late September. Commercial fishery harvests and assessment projects in the lower Yukon and Tanana rivers indicate the coho salmon run was slightly late and below average in size.

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) 459-7228.