

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-29-13

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, June 28, 2013

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 29, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday,
July 13, 2013, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-13, issued Thursday, April 18, 2013. This emergency order allows the use of bait and multiple hooks while sport fishing in the Deshka River and maintains the remainder of the sport fishing restrictions that were issued under Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-13. Those restrictions include limiting sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only when fishing in the Susitna River drainage. In addition, a person, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, may not fish for **any species of finfish on the same day** in any waters open to sport fishing for king salmon in the Susitna River Drainage Area

This emergency order continues to prohibit the harvest of king salmon (any size) in Units 1 (except Deshka River), 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Susitna River. Where harvest is prohibited, catch-and-release fishing is allowed. In the waters of Unit 2 open to king salmon fishing, fishing for trout and other species is not affected and is allowed as written in current regulation. The Deshka River is open to harvest of king salmon seven day per week; bait and multiple hooks are allowed. The annual limit remains 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.

Within Unit 4 (Yentna drainage), except for the Talachulitna River, this emergency order continues to allow harvest to occur each Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday and prohibits the retention of king salmon (any size) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, catch-and-release fishing is allowed, king salmon may not be retained or possessed, and king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The Talachulitna River is catch-and-release only seven days per week.

This emergency order is effective from 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 29, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2013.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (4), 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (3), 5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (2), 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1), and (2), 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (2), and 5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and

methods and means for Unit 6 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (1) and (4)(A), are superseded by this emergency order.

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of Susitna River Drainage Area. (9)(C) and 5 AAC 61.123 Restrictions on sport fishing after taking king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Susitna River Drainage Area. (1)(M) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Saturday, June 29, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2013:

5AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(4) except in the Deshka River drainage, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

5AAC 61.114. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from January 1 through the third Monday in June, and on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for two consecutive weeks starting on the Saturday following the third Monday in June, Unit 2 is open to sport fishing for all finfish species, including king salmon; beginning May 15, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(3) from September 1– July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

5AAC 61.116. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(2) from May 15–July 13, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed; sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

5AAC 61.118. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to

the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(2) from May 15– July 13, king salmon may be retained on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays only; any king salmon caught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed; sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

(9) the Talachulitna River drainage and all waters within a three quarter mile radius of its confluence with the Skwentna River,

(C) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

5AAC 61.120. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(2) from May 15–July 13, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed; sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

5AAC 61.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Unless otherwise specified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , the following are localized additions and exceptions to the general seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means to the general provisions specified in 5 AAC 61.110 and 5 AAC 75 for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area:

(1) from September 1–July 13, in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(4) in the East Fork of the Chulitna River drainage, including all waters within a one-quarter mile radius of its confluence of the East Fork and West Fork and including the Middle Fork of the Chulitna and the first quarter mile of Honolulu Creek

(A) from January 1 - July 13, the waters are open to sport fishing for all finfish species, including king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

5 AAC 61.123. Restrictions on sport fishing after taking king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Susitna River Drainage Area. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, or unless modified by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , a person, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, may not fish for

(1) any species of finfish on the same day in the following waters open to fishing for king salmon:

(M) any waters open to sport fishing for king salmon in the Susitna River Drainage Area;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through June 27, cumulative king salmon passage through the Deshka River weir is 12,859 fish. On average, about 75% of the spawning escapement has passed the weir by this date and the projected escapement is approximately 17,000 fish. The Sustainable Escapement Goal is 13,000 – 28,000 king salmon. Therefore it is warranted to rescind the gear restrictions placed previously on the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-13, issued Thursday, April 18, 2013 is superseded, but the restrictions contained within Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-13 are repeated in this new emergency order with the exception of Deshka River gear restrictions.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-09 -13 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 from 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2013.

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.