

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-09-13

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Effective date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2013

Expiration Date: December 31, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in all tributaries of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) and prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in these rivers, effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2013. This emergency order also closes all waters of the mainstem Yukon River to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2013.

All king salmon caught from the tributaries of the Yukon River must be released immediately. All king salmon caught unintentionally while fishing for other species from the mainstem Yukon River may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. (b)(1) are superseded and (c)(7) and 5 AAC 73.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish (d) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2013:

5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.

(b)(1) in the Yukon River tributaries, king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

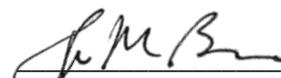
(c)(7) in the mainstem of the Yukon River, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon caught unintentionally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

5 AAC 73.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(d) In the Yukon River tributaries, the use of bait is prohibited.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



John M. Burr
Yukon River Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Current assessment information confirms that the 2013 Yukon River king salmon run is weak with a total run size projection near the lower end of the outlook range of 96,000 to 142,000. Given the current low passage estimates, the poor run sizes observed since 2007, and because the interim management escapement goal for king salmon into Canada was not attained in 4 of the past 6 years, the king salmon run is being managed conservatively. Scheduled subsistence fishing openings have been canceled in District 1-5 to protect the first pulse of king salmon migrating upriver. Additional subsistence closures to protect the second pulse have been implemented in lower river districts and are anticipated in upriver districts.

The extended closures of subsistence fishing in the Yukon River drainage districts warrants prohibiting retention of sport caught king salmon in the Yukon River tributaries. The prohibition of bait while sport fishing is intended to minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-13 issued May 15, 2013 which prohibited the retention of king salmon in all tributaries of the Yukon River (excluding the Tanana River drainage) and closed the waters of the mainstem Yukon River to sport fishing for king salmon.

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 99701, (907) 459-7228.