

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-12-13

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, July 26, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 29, 2013

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency  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

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 3-KS-10-13, issued July 9, 2013 and is effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 29, 2013. This emergency order closes the Chena River and the Tanana River within a ½ mile radius of the mouth of the Chena River to king salmon fishing and the use of bait and reopens the Salcha River to king salmon retention and the use of bait. The retention of sport caught king salmon in all other flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage remains prohibited and the use of bait in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage (excluding the Salcha River) remains 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 (b)(1) and (d)(2), (5)(B), (16)(B), and (18) are superseded and (c)(3)(C), (20)(D), (31)(A) and (d)(22) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2013:

#### **5 AAC 74.010. 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.

(c) (3) in the Chena River and its tributaries,

(C) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(20) in the Salcha River and its tributaries,

(D) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length: the bag and possession limit is one fish;

(31) in the Tanana River within a 1/2 mile radius of the mouth of the Chena River,

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally 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 (excluding the Salcha River) the use of bait is prohibited.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

by delegation to: 

Audra L. J. Brase  
Tanana River Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

This action closing the Chena River to sport fishing for king salmon and reopening the Salcha River to king salmon retention is consistent with the provisions set forth in 5 AAC 74.060 (Chena and Salcha River King Salmon Sport Harvest Management Plan). The plan states that the fisheries will be managed to achieve escapements within the biological escapement goal ranges. The king salmon biological escapement goal for the Chena River is 2,800 – 5,700 fish and the Salcha River is 3,300 – 6,500 fish.

As of July 25, current counts at the Salcha River counting tower indicate that the lower bound of the escapement goal has been achieved and the upper bound will likely be achieved. However, as of July 25, only about 1,400 king salmon have passed the counting tower on the Chena River. The Chena River king salmon escapement projection, based on current counts, indicates that the lower bound of the escapement goal range may not be achieved. Even though the Chena River has been closed to king salmon retention since July 12, this additional restrictive action is warranted because the Chena River king salmon run strength is insufficient to sustain the incidental mortality that may occur during catch-and-release fishing.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 3-KS-10-13 which prohibited the retention of sport caught king salmon all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage and prohibited the use of bait in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage.

**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.