

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-SS-01-13

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, October 5, 2013

Expiration Date: December 31, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 5, 2013. Coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used.

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 (c)(5) and (d)(6)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, October 5, 2013:

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 not be retained or possessed; coho salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(d)(6) in the Delta Clearwater River Drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

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 27 only 134 coho salmon were observed during a survey in the Delta Clearwater River from the campground to its confluence with the Tanana River. In addition, estimates of the coho salmon run at the Pilot Station sonar in the lower Yukon River were the second lowest since the project began. Although these indicators suggest that the run is very low, data from other Tanana River inseason assessment projects indicate an average coho salmon run. Tanana River commercial and subsistence fishery coho salmon harvests are similar to last year when the coho salmon escapement goal for the Delta Clearwater River was just attained. Also, coho salmon that may be holding downriver and delayed in entering the Delta Clearwater River present further uncertainty in projecting run size. For these reasons, a restriction to non-retention and associated gear restrictions are warranted.

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.