

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-01-13

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, May 15,  
2013

Effective date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Expiration Date: December 31, 2012, unless  
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in all tributaries of the Yukon River (excluding the Tanana River drainage), effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2013 through Sunday June 30, 2013. All tributaries of the Yukon River (excluding the Tanana River drainage) will reopen with a bag limit of one king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Monday July 1, 2013. This emergency order also closes all waters of the mainstem Yukon River to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2013.

All king salmon caught from tributaries of the Yukon River Wednesday, May 22, 2013 through Sunday June 30, 2013 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 (b)(1) are superseded and (c)(7) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2013:

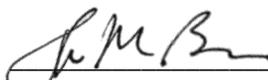
#### **5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.**

(b)(1) king salmon: may be taken only from July 1 through December 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, with no size limit. From January 1 through June 30, king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught 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.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

by delegation to:



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John M. Burr  
Yukon River Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Current projections indicate that the Yukon River king salmon run in 2013 will be weak, continuing the trend experienced since 2007. In 4 of the past 6 years the interim management escapement goal for king salmon into Canada was not attained. In 2009 and 2011 the interim escapement goal was attained as a result of very conservative management including reductions in subsistence fishing time in the mainstem Yukon River, no commercial fishery directed at king salmon, and sport fishery restrictions and closures. To conserve king salmon bound for Canada and to account for uncertainty in preseason run projections, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the *Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan* in January 2013. With this modification (5 AAC 05.360 (j)) the department shall not open any subsistence fishing periods in district 1 and 2 during the first pulse of the king salmon migration.

Under the 2013 preseason management strategy, the subsistence fishing schedule will begin May 30 in District 1 and will be implemented chronologically with the upriver migration. The subsistence fishery will close for approximately 10 days with the arrival of the first pulse of king salmon in the river; this closure will follow the king salmon migration through upriver districts. No directed commercial fishery for king salmon or sale of king salmon caught incidentally in other commercial fisheries in 2013 is expected. The anticipated low abundance of king salmon into the Yukon River, the recent failures to reach border passage goals, and restrictions placed on the subsistence fishery warrant a closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River mainstem, and, during periods of pulse protection, no retention of king salmon in the tributaries. The tributaries of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) will reopen with a reduction in the sport king salmon bag and possession limit as the protected pulse(s) pass affected districts.

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.