

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-03-14

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 12, 2014

Expiration Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Tanana River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 12, 2014.

All king salmon caught unintentionally in the Tanana River drainage while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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 (b)(1) and (c)(12) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 12, 2014:

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(b)(1) 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.

(c)(12) the Goodpaster River drainage is closed to sport fishing for salmon; any salmon may not be retained or possessed. Any salmon incidentally caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



Audra L. J. Brase
Tanana River Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks throughout western Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since at least 2010, below average run strength. The 2014 Yukon and Tanana rivers Chinook salmon run is expected to be extremely poor and could be the worst on record. Strong conservation measures are necessary to meet escapement objectives. Severe restrictions are being placed on the Yukon River subsistence fisheries. The Koyukuk, Innoko and Coastal District subsistence fisheries are all being restricted for the first time. Also for the first time, subsistence salmon fisheries will be restricted to fishing gear that will allow the live release of all king salmon.

King salmon escapement goals have not been met in the Chena River in 3 of the last 5 years., Although the Salcha River continues to meet escapement goals, it is likely due to the heavy restrictions placed upon the downriver fisheries.

Restricting the Tanana River king salmon sport fisheries is warranted in order to meet the king salmon escapement goals on the Chena and Salcha Rivers and to support the conservation measures being taken by Yukon River drainage subsistence users.

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.