

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-25-15

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Friday, June 19, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday,  
July 13, 2015, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-09-15, issued in Palmer on Thursday, February 19, 2015. This emergency order opens the Little Susitna River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon, seven days per week from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway beginning Friday, June 19, 2015. The bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater is one per day, one in possession. Only unbaited, artificial lures are allowed.

The combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River, as issued in Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-15, remains in effect. The area currently closed to sport fishing from the weir downstream to a department sign as established by Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-17, will remain closed at this time in order to provide uninterrupted passage for fish during low water.

This emergency order is effective from 6:00 a.m., Friday, June 19, 2015, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015.

### REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-09-15 is rescinded.

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

To date 2,692 king salmon have passed the Little Susitna weir, which is located approximately at river mile 32.5, four miles upstream of the Little Susitna Public Use Facility. Historically approximately 50% of the run has passed upstream of the weir by this date. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for the Little Susitna River is 900-1,800 king salmon based on a post season aerial survey. Past comparisons of weir counts and aerial survey estimates indicate 40-60% of the fish passed through the weir are later counted in the aerial survey. Therefore, a weir based management target of 2,200-4,500 will project the SEG is

achieved if at least 40% of the escapement is enumerated in the aerial survey. At this time it is justified to allow additional harvest on the Little Susitna River king salmon fishery. An anticipated harvest of 300 fish upstream of the weir due to this action is not expected to reduce the spawning escapement below the SEG.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-09-15, which restricted harvest to Saturdays-Mondays, and required the use of one, unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only, is rescinded by this emergency order.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-08-15 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River. This emergency order remains in effect through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-17-15, which increased the closed area to 2,000 feet downstream of the weir remains in effect through September 15, 2015.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.