

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-41-15

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Friday, July 3, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Monday,  
July 13, 2015, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order allows for the use of bait in the Little Susitna River in waters open to king salmon fishing from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, July 3 through 11:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area. (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, July 3 through 11:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2015:

### **5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.**

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) From July 3 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, bait may be used;

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Ivey,  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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 the weir counts and aerial survey estimates indicate 40–60% of the fish passed through the weir are later assessed in the aerial survey. Therefore, a weir based management target of 2,200–4,500 should achieve the SEG if at least 40% of the weir count is enumerated in the aerial survey. To date 4,366 king salmon have passed the weir with a projected passage of approximately 5,000 fish. The limited historical data comparing weir counts to aerial survey estimates project the upper end of the SEG should be exceeded and anticipated harvest above the weir is not expected

to reduce the escapement below the SEG. In addition, an aerial survey was conducted on June 30 and 700–1,000 king salmon were observed upstream of the fishery, supporting the projection the upper end of the SEG may be exceeded.

**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.