

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-53-15

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 6, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2015, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for coho salmon for the waters of Little Susitna open to salmon fishing downstream of the Parks Highway bridge. Beginning Thursday, August 6, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is three fish, of which, all three may be coho salmon,

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 Drainages Area. (9)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 6, through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2015:

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

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(F) salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit is three fish, of which all three may be coho salmon; a person, after taking a bag limit of salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length from the Little Susitna River, may not sport fish that same day for any species of fish in waters open to sport fishing for salmon on the Little Susitna River;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for coho salmon in the Little Susitna is 10,100-17,700 fish. As of August 4, a total of 8,320 coho salmon have passed the Little Susitna weir. Based on weir counts and using average run timing, the department is projecting to exceed the SEG. By August 6, as much as 50 percent of the harvest has typically taken place in the sport fishery. It is not anticipated that increased

sport harvest from this emergency order will lower escapement below the goal in the Little Susitna River. Therefore it is warranted to provide additional sport fish harvest opportunity.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.