

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-02-15

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, July 9, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 10, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes and corrects an error in the previous Emergency Order No. 3-CS-01-15 issued on Thursday, July 2, 2015. This emergency order closes the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay) to sport fishing for chum salmon, effective 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 10, 2015. All chum salmon caught unintentionally in the Kuskokwim River drainage while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the Kuskokwim River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(1)(E), (c)(3)(G), (c)(10), and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 6 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2015:

5 AAC 71.010. Season and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area.

(c)(3)(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, and coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit of all salmon species may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(3)(G) sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(d)(1)(G) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim River drainage not specified in (d)(1)(A-F).

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:



John Chythook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative CPUE for chum salmon at the Bethel Test Fishery is the third lowest on record for this date and is well below the 5- and 10-yr averages. On average, 31% of the chum salmon run has passed Bethel, as of June 29. The historical midpoint of the chum salmon run is July 4. However, the 2015 run appears to be late, weak, or both. The subsistence gillnet fishery will remain on a two day per week schedule in an effort to conserve chum salmon. The poor chum salmon run in the Kuskokwim River warrants a total closure of sport fishing for chum salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-01-15 issued on Thursday, July, 2, 2015, which closed the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area sport fishery to sport fishing for chum salmon, is superseded.

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) 459-7207.