

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-29-16

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, July 5, 2016

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m. Wednesday,
July 13, 2016, unless superseded by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.

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 (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, through 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, 2016:

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 6 – 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 2,200–4,000 should achieve the SEG if at least 40% of the weir count is enumerated in the aerial survey. To date approximately 4,300 king salmon have passed the weir with a projected passage of approximately 4,800 fish. In 2015, the SEG was achieved with bait use allowed late in the season.

Under 5 AAC 75.003. *Emergency Order Authority* the commissioner may increase sport fish bag and possession limits and annual limits and liberalize methods and means of harvest by emergency order when the total escapement of a species of anadromous fish is projected to exceed the escapement goal for that species, if the total harvest under the increased limits will not reduce escapement below the escapement goal. Anticipated harvest above the weir is not expected to reduce the escapement below the SEG, therefore the use of bait is warranted.

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.