

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME**

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-17-17

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Friday, June 23, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait in the Deshka River from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17) and all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.112. (6)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Friday, June 23 through 11:00 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017:

5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(6) in the Deshka River drainage, including Trapper Lake,

(B) from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, king salmon may be taken from January 1 – July 13; from September 1 – July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; the remainder of the drainage is closed from January 1 – December 31 to sport fishing for king salmon;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal for king salmon in the Deshka River is 13,000 to 28,000 fish, as measured at the weir located at river mile seven. On average, approximately 55 percent of the escapement has passed the weir by June 20. As of June 20, approximately 7,920 king salmon have passed the weir and the projected escapement is about 13,800 fish. As the projected escapement has been steadily declining over the past 18 days and has the potential to drop below the lower end of the goal within this next week, and due to uncertainty in run timing this season, it is prudent to reduce harvest in the sport fishery by restricting use of bait at this time.

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.