

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-17

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, March 24, 2017

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Monday, May 1, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order established an annual limit of two king salmon greater than 20 inches in length in the Little Susitna River drainage. The annual limit is five king salmon greater than 20 inches in Cook Inlet, of which only two may be from the Little Susitna River.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area. (9)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m. Monday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017:

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

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from January 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing is open for king salmon with a bag and possession limit of one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; there is an annual limit of two king salmon greater than 20 inches in length and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

Little Susitna River king salmon, like other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet, are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since 2007, below average run strength. The Little Susitna River king salmon Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is 900 – 1,800 fish as measured by aerial survey. The goal was achieved in 2012 – 2016, but not without preseason actions taken to reduce harvest up to 75 percent. Escapements in 2015 and 2016 were in excess of a new weir-based SEG range of 2,100 – 4,300 fish (primary goal for management purposes) and the fishery was liberalized late in the season in each year.

Based on run sizes over the past three years, a modest increase in harvest of approximately 900 fish is warranted, that can be achieved by restoring harvest to seven days per week. Recent years' run strength remains about 20 percent below average warranting an annual limit reduction. A weir will be used to assess run strength during the season.

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.