

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-22-17

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, June 29, 2017

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Saturday, July 1, 2017

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July 13, 2017, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-18-17, issued in Palmer on Thursday, June 22, 2017. This emergency order closes the Little Susitna River to fishing for king salmon and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing for other species. King salmon fishing during two consecutive three-day weekends, July 1 - July 3 and July 8 - July 10, set forth in Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-18-17, will not take place. The closure prohibits sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway Bridge.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Saturday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017:

5 AAC 60.12. 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,

(A) from July 1 - 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing is closed for king salmon; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(B) from October 1 - June 30 and July 14 - August 5, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; from July 1 - July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Emergency Order 2-KS-2-18-17 was issued on Thursday, June 22, to close the Little Susitna River to fishing for king salmon, except for the last two consecutive three-day weekends of the season. This action was taken to allow for further assessment of the run and to reduce the potential for total closure of the fishery. To date, only 1,240 king salmon have passed the Little Susitna weir, which is located at approximately river mile 32.5 and four miles upstream of the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). The escapement goal for the Little Susitna is 2,100 - 4,300 king salmon based on the weir count. Weir counts to date indicate the escapement goal is not likely to be achieved without further restrictions. An aerial survey flown downstream of the weir on June 28 substantiates the weir count assessment and indicates any further harvest of king salmon could jeopardize achievement of the goal. At this time, it is prudent to prohibit further harvest and close the Little Susitna River to king salmon fishing for the duration of the season.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-18-17, which closed the Little Susitna River to fishing for king salmon, except on two consecutive three day weekends occurring July 1 - July 3 and July 8 - July 10, is superseded by this emergency order.

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.