

SUBSISTENCE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-02-17

Issued at: Glennallen, Friday, June 2, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 3, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. July 15, 2017,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION:


This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 3-KS-I-01-17, issued on March 6, 2017 which established king salmon annual limits and required fish wheels to be closely attended in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-01-17 is rescinded effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:



Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal in the Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. On March 6, 2017 the department closed the king salmon sport and personal use fisheries of the Copper River drainage and imposed and reduced the annual limit of king salmon in the subsistence fishery in response to a preseason run forecast of only 29,000 fish and generally poor return strength since 2009. However, greater than expected commercial harvest of king salmon during extremely limited fishing time and area indicate the 2017 run of king salmon may be greater than forecast, providing potential for a harvestable surplus of king salmon above the escapement goal in the Copper River drainage. It is therefore justified to relax the preseason restrictions and provide additional harvest opportunity in the subsistence fishery.

The department will continue to monitor the 2017 Copper River king salmon run as it develops. If indicators of abundance suggest the 2017 run is weaker than current indicators suggest, the department may again take restrictive action.

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) 459-7357 and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.