

# PERSONAL USE FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-I-01-17

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Monday, March 6, 2017

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 7, 2017

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. September 30, 2017,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:** This emergency order closes the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery to the retention of king salmon. King salmon incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

**REGULATION:** The provisions of 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. (e) and (g) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 7 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 2017:

**5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

(e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is 25 salmon, excluding king salmon, for the head of household and 10 salmon, excluding king salmon, for each dependent of the permit holder.

(g) King salmon and rainbow or steelhead trout incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner



by delegation to:

Mark A. Somerville  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:** The 2017 forecast for Copper River king salmon is 29,000 fish. This is the lowest forecast for king salmon on the Copper River and is only 5,000 fish above the drainagewide minimum escapement goal for king salmon. 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 upper Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. Copper River king salmon returns have been below average since 2009 and spawning escapement over the last 5 years (2011-2015) has averaged 24,846 salmon and fell below the minimum escapement goal in 2010, 2014, and 2016. Escapement in 2016 was the lowest ever recorded, at less than 12,000 king salmon. Below average returns during previous years, past performance of fisheries within the Copper River, anticipated subsistence harvest, incidental take in the commercial fishery, and uncertainty over how returns may recover in the future justify prohibiting the retention of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery for the 2017 season.

The department will monitor the 2017 Copper River king salmon run as it develops. If indicators of abundance suggest the 2017 run is stronger than forecast, the department will reevaluate this preseason restriction and, if justified, will relax this restriction.

**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.