

# SUBSISTENCE 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. Thursday, June 1, 2017

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency  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

**EXPLANATION:** This emergency order establishes a total annual household bag limit of two king salmon harvested by fish wheel in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery from June 1 through July 15, 2017. During this period, fish wheels must be closely attended and any king salmon, over the two fish annual limit, incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

In addition, the five fish annual limit of king salmon taken by dip net is reduced to two fish, only two king salmon may be retained from June 1 through July 15. Any king salmon, over the two fish limit for this period, incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

**REGULATION:** Consistent with 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. (e), the provisions of 5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits. (a)(1), (2), (3), and (4)(A) and (B), are superseded and 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications. (b)(1)(A) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 1, 2017:

**5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits.**

(a) The total annual possession limits for a Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing permit is as follows:

- (1) for a household with one person: 30 salmon, of which no more than two may be a king salmon from June 1–July 15 if taken by fish wheel or dip net;
- (2) for a household with two persons: 60 salmon, of which no more than two may be a king salmon from June 1–July 15 if taken by fish wheel or dip net;
- (3) 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over those specified in (2) of this subsection, except that the household's limit under (2) of this subsection for king salmon does not increase;
- (4) upon request, a permit for additional salmon will be issued with the following limits:
  - (A) no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with one person, of which no more than two may be a king salmon from June 1–July 15 if taken by fish wheel or dip net;
  - (B) no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with two or more persons, of which no more than two may be a king salmon from June 1–July 15 if taken by fish wheel or dip net.

**5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

- (b) Salmon may be taken only by the following types of gear:

(1) in the Glennallen Subdistrict by fish wheels or dip nets;

(A) From June 1–July 15, an operator of a fish wheel must closely attend the fish wheel while it is in operation and must immediately return any king salmon, in excess of the annual bag limit, captured by the fish wheel to the water alive.

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 justifies limiting the harvest of king salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery for a portion of 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 these preseason restrictions and, if justified, will relax these provisions to provide additional subsistence opportunity, consistent with sustained yield.

**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.