

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-I-03-18

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 18, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2018,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District until further notice.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 77.001(b), the COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 77.591, and authority under AS 16.05.060 the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will be closed until further notice effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 18.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner



by delegation to:

Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction of the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30, and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. As of June 12, a total of 178,693 salmon were counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this date was 276,899 salmon, which results in a deficit of 98,206 salmon or 35% from expected. Daily sonar counts continue to lag behind projected passage and it appears unlikely that the lower bound Copper River sockeye salmon escapement goal will be achieved. It is therefore justified to close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery until further notice.

If sonar passage improves, the department will reevaluate the run, and may reopen the fishery if the escapement goal will be achieved and surplus salmon are available for harvest. Regardless of sonar passage, the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery will reopen by regulation beginning September 1.

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.