

# SUBSISTENCE FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-17-19

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Effective Date: 4:00 a.m. Monday, June 3, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 30, 2019,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order restricts the Upper Yentna River subsistence fishery to Wednesdays and Fridays from June 1 through June 30 to conserve king salmon.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 01.593 (2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 4:00 a.m. Monday, June 3 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 30, 2019:

#### **5 AAC 001.593. Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery.**

In the Yentna River drainage outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(2), salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes only as follows:

(2) in the mainstem of the Yentna River from its confluence with Martin Creek upstream to its confluence with the Skwentna River from June 1 through June 30 from

(A) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday; and

(B) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Sport Fish Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The preseason forecast for the Deshka River king salmon run is 8,500 age 1.2-1.4 fish, which is below the sustainable escapement goal of 13,000-28,000 fish. For the second consecutive year, a sibling model suggests a potential weak run of 5-year old fish, which typically constitute about half a given year's run. Given that low abundance of 4-year old fish in 2017 and a low abundance of 4-year-old and 5-year old fish in 2018 was widespread throughout the Susitna River drainage, as evidenced by age data collected at fish wheels and reports from guides and anglers, it is assumed the low Deshka River forecast will be reflective of other areas of the Susitna River drainage during 2019. Sport fisheries of the Susitna and Little Susitna rivers have been closed to fishing for king salmon through two separate emergency orders in anticipation of a run size less than experienced in 2017 and 2018 when nearly all area escapement goals were missed. In addition to these

management actions to the sport fishery, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery will also be closed. The Tyonek subsistence fishery is restricted to two periods per week through a separate emergency order. These actions share the burden of conservation across all user groups while recognizing a subsistence priority.

**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.