

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-49-19

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 19, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 21, 2019

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September 30, 2019, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-48-19, issued on Monday, August 12, 2019 and closes the Little Susitna River to fishing for coho salmon and prohibits the use of bait effective 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway. The closure prohibits sport fishing for coho salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. Coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 21 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2019:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) from August 21 - September 30, in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; from August 21 – December 31, bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, greater than 16 inches in length is three fish, of which none may be coho salmon; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, less than 16 inches in length is ten fish, of which none may be coho salmon; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 10,100–17,700 fish. To date, only 3,841 coho salmon have passed upstream of the weir. Extreme low water conditions have stalled upstream migration of coho salmon, presenting difficulty assessing run strength by fish weir. However, reports by guides and anglers indicate below average numbers of coho salmon holding in the lower 30 miles of river. Under these conditions, restrictions to coho salmon are warranted until environmental conditions change, and projected run strength improves.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-48-19, which restricted bait on the Little Susitna River beginning August 14, 2019, is rescinded.

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.