

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-50-19

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September 30, 2019, unless superseded by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 closes the Deshka 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 Deshka River drainage and all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River. 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The provisions of 5 AAC 61.112 (6)(B) are superseded by this emergency order.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 61.112. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

- (6) in the Deshka River drainage, including Trapper Lake,
 - (B) in all flowing waters and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon is three fish, of which none may be coho salmon; only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Deshka River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 10,200–24,100 fish. To date, only 3,285 coho salmon have passed upstream of the weir. Extreme low water levels coupled with high stream temperatures has stalled upstream migration of coho salmon, presenting difficulty assessing run strength by fish weir. Reports by guides and anglers and observations by staff indicate below average numbers of coho salmon holding in the mouth area and likely too low to achieve the escapement goal at this time. Under these

conditions, restrictions to coho salmon are warranted until environmental conditions change and projected run strength improves.

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.