

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-54-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Monday, September 23, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2019, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for coho salmon in all freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42 downstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge (also known as Copper River Highway streams) from three per day and in possession to one per day and two in possession.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023 (1)(A)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provision are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 25 through Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area

(A) in all freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42,

- (i) the bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; a coho salmon removed from the water shall be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jay Baumer
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

On September 17, 2019, the Copper River Delta drainage aerial survey count for coho salmon was estimated at 7,725 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 16,908 - 35,401. A stranding event occurred on the Ibeck Creek on September 4 and it is estimated that 1,500 - 2,000 coho salmon died during this event; however, some of these fish were utilized by federal subsistence fishers. In addition, during the survey conducted on September 11, additional mortalities were observed in other reaches of Ibeck Creek likely related to low water conditions. The Copper River Delta had been experiencing drought conditions

with minimal to no rain until September 12. It has been determined that low water conditions over the last few weeks likely impeded fish migration. To help increase coho salmon escapement in the Copper River Delta these restrictions are warranted.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-53-19 issued September 16, 2019, prohibited the use of bait in all freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42 downstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge (also known as Copper River Highway streams). Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used in all flowing waters of the Copper River Highway streams will remain in effect through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.