

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-53-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Monday, September 16, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 18, 2019

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December 31, 2019, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits 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.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023 (A)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 18 through 11:59 p.m. 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,
- (ii) from September 18 – December 31, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jay Baumer
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

On September 11, 2019, the Copper River Delta (CRD) drainage aerial survey count for coho salmon was estimated at 8,565 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 18,286 – 38,285. In addition, during the CRD aerial 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 area had been experiencing drought conditions with minimal to no rain. It has been determined that low water conditions over the last few weeks has impeded fish migration. To help increase escapement in the CRD the prohibition of bait is warranted.

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.