

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-6-19

Issued at: Fairbanks, July 15, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
August 15, 2019, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits retention of king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, 2019. The use of bait in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage is also prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010. (b)(1) and (d)(2), (5)(B), (15), (16)(B), and (18) are superseded and (d)(23) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 17 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 15, 2019:

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(b)(1) king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(d) In the Tanana River Management Area, the following special provisions to methods and means apply:

(2) in the Chatanika River and its tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(5) in the Chena River and its tributaries, including Chena Slough (Badger Slough),
(B) the use of bait is prohibited;

(15) in the Salcha River and its tributaries only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(16) in Shaw Creek,
(B) the use of bait is prohibited;

(18) in the Tanana River and its tributaries within a two-mile radius of Shaw Creek, the use of bait is prohibited;

(23) in all flowing waters of Tanana River tributaries, the use of bait is prohibited.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

by delegation to:

Heather Scannell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through Sunday, July 14, the cumulative passage of king salmon was 552 fish in the Chena River and 666 fish in the Salcha River. Based on historical run timing, the projected king salmon escapements in the Chena and Salcha rivers will fall below their respective biological escapement goal (BEG) lower bounds. The king salmon BEG range for the Chena River is 2,800 – 5,700 fish, and the BEG range for the Salcha River is 3,300 – 6,500. Projected escapements based on current run strength indicate that the Tanana River drainage cannot support a sport harvest at this time.

Restricting the king salmon sport fishery to no retention in the Tanana River drainage is warranted to conserve Tanana River king salmon stocks.

The Tanana River drainage king salmon sport fisheries are managed under the provisions set forth in 5 AAC 74.060 *Chena and Salcha River King Salmon Sport Harvest Management Plan* using inseason estimated run abundance and escapement information from the Tanana River and its major king salmon spawning tributaries, the Chena and Salcha Rivers. The plan states that the fisheries will be managed to achieve escapements in the Salcha and Chena rivers that fall within the BEG ranges.

The department will continue to evaluate escapements on the Chena and Salcha rivers. If escapements are projected to be met, restrictions to the king salmon sport fisheries will be relaxed.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.