

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-7-19

Issued at: Fairbanks, July 23, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 26, 2019

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August 15, 2019, unless superseded by  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

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-6-19 and closes all waters of the Tanana River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon.

All king salmon caught incidentally in the Tanana River drainage while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010 (b)(1) and (c)(12) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 25:

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

(b)(1) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(c)(12) in the Goodpaster River drainage sport fishing for salmon is closed; salmon may not be taken or possessed. Any salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

by delegation to:

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Heather Scannell  
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The estimated passage of king salmon at the Chena and Salcha river counting towers are below average for years with late run timing. Through Tuesday, July 23, the cumulative passage of king salmon was 1,429 fish in the Chena River and 2,496 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 3,300 – 6,500 for the Salcha River. Projected escapements based on current run strength indicate that the Tanana River drainage cannot support a sport harvest at this time. Closing the king salmon sport fishery 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.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-6-19 prohibited the retention of king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage and prohibited the use of bait in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage is rescinded.

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.