

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-48-20

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2020 **Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait on the Little Susitna River. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2020, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2020:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Samantha Oslund
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 9,200 - 17,700 fish. Recent daily weir counts are well below average. As of August 3, 2020, only 1,047 coho salmon had passed upstream of the weir and the escapement is projected to be 6,582 fish at the 15th percentile of the historical run after taking into account anticipated harvest upstream of the weir. Sport harvest can exceed escapement in average to below-average run years due to the high effort in this fishery. By August 6, as much as 50 percent of the harvest has typically taken place in the sport fishery. At this time, it is justified to slow the harvest of coho salmon at the Little Susitna River until the run can be further assessed to ensure the SEG is met.

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.