

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-53-20

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 24, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2020, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-48-20, which prohibited the use of bait, effective Thursday, August 6, 2020, and Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-50-20, which restricted the bag and possession limit for coho salmon to one fish on the Little Susitna River, effective Thursday, August 13, 2020. Bait is allowed on the Little Susitna River from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway and the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is restored to three salmon, of which no more than two may be a coho salmon per regulation.

REGULATION:

Emergency Orders 2-SS-2-48-20 and 2-SS-2-50-20 are rescinded.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 9,200-17,700 fish. An emergency order effective August 6, 2020, prohibiting bait on the Little Susitna River was issued to slow the rate of harvest while the run continued to be assessed. A subsequent emergency order effective August 13 reducing the coho salmon bag limit, was issued to further slow the rate of harvest at the historical midpoint of the run as the SEG could not be projected. In general, the coho salmon run on the Little Susitna River appears to be late. Daily weir counts have recently increased and the cumulative escapement as of Monday, August 24, is 9,753 coho salmon and the SEG is projected to be met after accounting for harvest upstream of the weir. It is not anticipated that increased sport harvest from this emergency order will lower escapement below the goal in the Little Susitna River. Therefore, it is warranted to remove the restrictions previously placed on the sport fishery.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-48-20, which prohibited the use of bait on the Little Susitna River effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 6 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2020, is rescinded by this emergency order.

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-50-20, which restricted the bag and possession limit for coho salmon to two fish on the Little Susitna River effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 13 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020, is rescinded by this emergency order.

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.