

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-SS-U-01-20

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday,
October 15, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, October 17, 2020

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December 31, 2020, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Delta Clearwater Lake drainage to sport fishing for coho salmon. Additionally, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(5) and (d)(6) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, October 17, 2020:

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

(c)(5) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage;

(A) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is one fish, 12 inches or less in length: all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;

(B) sport fishing for coho salmon is closed; coho salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(d)(6) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: Heather Scannell
Heather Scannell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Delta Clearwater River coho salmon sport fishery is managed using inseason escapement data. The fishery management objective is to achieve an escapement within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 5,200–17,000. Escapement is monitored from late September through November 1, when peak counts have historically occurred.

Based on preliminary survey counts in an 8-mile index area of the Delta Clearwater River, the coho salmon run is projected to not achieve the lower end of the SEG. The number of fish counted on September 25 was 76 coho salmon, 741 salmon on October 5, and 1,286 salmon on October 13. Given these numbers and the fact that this is the midpoint of the run, a closure of the coho salmon sport fishery is warranted.

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.