

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-I-03-20

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Wednesday, June 17, 2020

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 20, 2020

**Expiration Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Upper Copper River drainage from four to one fish. Any king salmon harvested from the Upper Copper River drainage prior to June 20 does not count toward the one fish annual limit.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022. (a)(3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 20, 2020:

#### **5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.**

(a)(3) king salmon: may be taken only from January 1 – July 19, as follows;

(A) 20 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Doug Vincent Lang  
Commissioner



by delegation to:

Mark A. Somerville  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal in the upper Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. The 2020 king salmon run to the Copper River appears to be substantially weaker than the preseason forecast of 60,000 king salmon. The cumulative commercial harvest, as of June 16, is approximately 5,751 king salmon, and is below the expected level for this date. Catch rates of king salmon in the Native Village of Eyak research fish wheels through June 16 indicate a cumulative catch 32% below average for this date. Additionally, recapture rates of king salmon at Canyon Creek indicate a potential inriver return below the lower end escapement goal of 24,000 king salmon for the Copper River drainage. A cumulative count of 54 king salmon have passed the Gulkana River king salmon counting tower through June 16. These counts are 71% below average for this date. These inseason run strength indicators through June 16, and generally poor stock performance trend over the last 11 years, indicate the need to take restrictive action. Therefore, reducing the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from four to one fish is justified to ensure achievement of the sustainable escapement goal.

The Department will continue to evaluate inseason run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met while providing as much sport fishing opportunity as possible.

**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) 459-7357 and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.