

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-05-20

Issued at: Fairbanks, June 25, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 27, 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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 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 (b)(1) and (c)(12) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Saturday, June 27, 2020:

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 retained or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____

Heather Scannell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The estimated king salmon passage at the Pilot Station sonar is below average for years with normal run timing. This indicates that the run may come in well below the lower end of the preseason projection range of 144,000 to 220,000 king salmon. A conservative management approach is being taken to protect the 2020 king salmon run which, thus far, appears to be weak. Subsistence fisheries in the Yukon River have been restricted by substantially reduced fishing time; gear restrictions to limit king salmon catch and allow live release; and no retention of incidentally caught king salmon. The measures being taken this year are very similar to the restrictions placed upon all king salmon fisheries in 2015. Those restrictions enabled king salmon escapement goals to be met throughout the Yukon River drainage, including the Chena and Salcha rivers.

Restricting the Tanana River king salmon sport fisheries is warranted in order to achieve the king salmon escapement goals on the Chena and Salcha Rivers and to support the conservation measures being taken in Yukon River drainage subsistence fisheries.

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.