

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-I-01-20

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 3, 2020

Expiration Date: December 31, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Upper Copper River drainage upstream of the south bank of Haley Creek to sport fishing for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon may not be taken or possessed and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022. (a)(4) and 5 AAC 52.023. (9)(H)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 3 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020:

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

(a)(4) salmon, other than king salmon and sockeye salmon; may be taken from January 1 – December 31;

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(H) in all flowing waters of the West Fork of the Gulkana River upstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-half mile upstream of the confluence of the West Fork and mainstem of the Gulkana River,

(ii) sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed; sockeye salmon may not be taken or possessed;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



by delegation to:

Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As of July 28, a total of 530,313 salmon have been counted past the Miles Lake sonar compared to an objective of 624,709 salmon for this date, a deficit of 94,396 salmon with 95% of the run past the sonar. Additionally, sonar passage is trending 72% below daily objective's indicating the Copper River sockeye salmon run may be near its end. Due to overall low sockeye salmon passage and concerns the sockeye salmon escapement goal is at risk of not being met, it is justified to close the Upper Copper River drainage sockeye salmon sport fishery for the remainder of the season.

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.