

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-I-06-20

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
July 1, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 p.m. Thursday, July 9, 2020

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2020, unless superseded by subsequent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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order amends the schedule for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District for the week of July 6, 2020.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 77.001(b) and 5 AAC 77.591 *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* and authority under AS 16.05.060, the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will be open from 12:01 p.m. Thursday, July 9 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 12.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____


Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction of the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30 and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. During June 22 – 28, there were 55,140 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 52,301 salmon, which results in a weekly surplus of 2,839 salmon. This associated level of sonar passage would normally allow for 120 hours of fishing time during the week of July 6 – 12, an increase of 5 hours from the preseason schedule. However, commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in the Copper River District is 89% below average, with only five 12-hr commercial fishing periods this season through June 30, compared to 14 fishing periods of 12 – 48 hrs during a normal season. In addition, total salmon passage by the Miles Lake sonar is 20% below the inriver goal objective for this date. As of June 28, a total of 366,730 salmon have been counted past the Miles Lake sonar compared to a preseason projection of 445,904 salmon for this date, which results in a deficit of 79,174 salmon. Due to overall low sockeye salmon passage and concerns of achieving the sockeye salmon escapement goal, a reduction of 36 hours from the normally calculated fishing time is warranted. This reduction in fishing time is intended to spread harvest and provide fishing opportunity throughout the run while taking a conservative management approach.

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.