

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-I-08-20

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
July 15, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2020

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2020, unless superseded by subsequent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

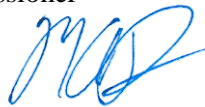
EXPLANATION:

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 20, 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 a.m. Friday, July 24 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

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 July 6 – 12, there were 45,984 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 40,849 salmon, which results in a weekly surplus of 5,135 salmon. This associated level of sonar passage would normally allow for 96 hours of fishing time during the week of July 20 – 26, an increase of 12 hours from the preseason schedule. However, commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in the Copper River District is 89% below average, with only six 12-hr commercial fishing periods this season through July 14, compared to 18 fishing periods of 12 – 48 hours during a normal season. In addition, total salmon passage by the Miles Lake sonar is 10% below the inriver goal objective for this date. As of July 14, a total of 484,971 salmon have been counted past the Miles Lake sonar compared to a preseason projection of 541,205 salmon for this date, which results in a deficit of 56,234 salmon with over 80% of the expected run already past the sonar. Due to overall low sockeye salmon passage and concerns of achieving the sockeye salmon escapement goal, a reduction of 24 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.