

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-21

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, January 22, 2021

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Little Susitna River and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021:

### **5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from May 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing is open for king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) from May 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Little Susitna River king salmon, like other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet, are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since 2007, below average run strength. The Little Susitna River king salmon Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 2,100 – 4,300 fish was not achieved in 2018 and achieved in 2019. The SEG was again attained in 2020 near the low end of the SEG range with a catch-and-release fishery in place. The last several years demonstrate no apparent trend in abundance. The Little Susitna king salmon fishery has the potential for higher sport harvest rates relative to other Northern Cook Inlet sport fisheries. The SEG is likely to be achieved through nonretention in 2021 given a comparable run size as in 2020 and a weir will be used to evaluate run strength inseason on a daily basis should additional actions be necessary to either close the fishery or relax restrictions during the season.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.