

SUBSISTENCE

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-01-21

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
June 23, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 28, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 1,
2021, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery to the retention of king salmon. Any king salmon incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately. In addition, fish wheels must be closely attended while fishing.

REGULATION:

Consistent with the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 24.361(e), the subsistence salmon fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will close at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 27. The Glennallen Subdistrict reopens at 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 28 and the retention of king salmon is prohibited. The provisions of 5 AAC 01.620 (c)(4) and 5 AAC 01.645 (1), (2), and (4) are superseded by this emergency order effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 28, 2021:

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

- (4) a permit holder may operate only one fish wheel at a time and a fish wheel may be operated only by one permit holder at a time; that permit holder must;
- (A) have the fish wheel marked as specified in this subsection during fishing operations; and
 - (B) closely attend the wheel while it is in operation.

5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits.

(a) The total annual possession limits for a Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing permit is as follows:

- (1) for a household with one person: 30 salmon, other than king salmon; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;
- (2) for a household with two persons: 60 salmon, other than king salmon; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;
- (4) upon request, a permit for additional salmon will be issued with the following limits:
 - (A) no more than a total of 200 salmon, other than king salmon, for a permit issued to a household with one person; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

(B) no more than a total of 500 salmon, other than king salmon, for a permit issued to a household with two or more persons; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

Douglas Vincent-Lang

Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Mark Somerville

Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.361) directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal in the Copper River of 24,000 or more king salmon. The 2021 king salmon run to the Copper River is substantially weaker than the preseason forecast of 37,000 king salmon. Catch rates of king salmon in the Native Village of Eyak research fish wheels through June 22 are the third lowest on record since 2003 and recapture rates indicate a potential inriver return below the Copper River drainage king salmon escapement goal, providing no surplus for harvest. Additionally, only 132 king salmon have passed the Gulkana River salmon counting tower through June 22, which is the second lowest count on record for this date and 79% below average. Therefore, prohibiting the retention of king salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery is justified to ensure the escapement goal is achieved.

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.