SPORT FISHING *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-15-22

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 27, 2022

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 10, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 3-KS-I-11-22 issued on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 and establishes an annual limit for king salmon, 20 inches or more in length, of two fish in the Upper Copper River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022. (a)(3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 27 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, 2022:

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)(3) king salmon: may be taken only from January 1 – July 19 as follows;

(A) 20 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of two fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Douglas Vincent-Lang Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mark A. Somerville Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* directs the department to manage all Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 21,000 to 31,000 king salmon in the Copper River drainage. As of June 15, 2022 the king salmon run to the Copper River was projected to be weaker than the preseason forecast of 40,000 king salmon and inriver abundance estimates were projected to be near the lower bound of the escapement goal. Since that time, king salmon migration into the Copper River has improved with all indices of abundance projecting a final inriver run estimate sufficient to allow additional harvest and achieve the Copper River drainage king salmon escapement goal. Therefore, previous restrictions have been superseded with a limited harvest opportunity of king salmon in the sport fishery allowed.

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.