

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-38-23

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, July 3, 2023

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Thursday, July 6, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
July 13, 2023, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-07-23, issued in Palmer on Thursday, March 2, 2023. This emergency order closes the Little Susitna River to sport fishing for king salmon and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing for other species. The closure prohibits sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook Inlet upstream to the Parks Highway Bridge.

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The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122(9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Thursday, July 6 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2023:

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 July 6 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(B) from July 6 – 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:

Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Emergency Order 2-KS-2-07-23 was issued preseason to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Little Susitna River to catch-and-release only. Cold water temperatures likely impeding upstream migration of king salmon followed by flooding has made assessment of run strength using weir counts difficult. However, recent daily counts post recovery of the weir remain below past years in which the goal was achieved. Reports of low fishing success from anglers, guides, and staff also indicate a much weaker run than in 2022 when the escapement goal was narrowly achieved. At this time, it is prudent to conserve all remaining king salmon returning to the Little Susitna River to provide the greatest potential for achieving the escapement goal in 2023.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-07-23, which restricted the king salmon sport fishery on the Little Susitna River to catch-and-release only and limited sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only from May 1 – July 13, 2023, is superseded by this emergency order.

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.