

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-55-23

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, August 10, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 12,
2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September
30, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait on the Little Susitna River. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. 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.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 12, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 2023:

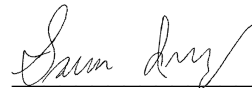
5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Sam Ivey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 9,200 - 17,700 fish. A target management objective of approximately 10,200 fish incorporates an anticipated harvest of nearly 1,000 fish upstream of the weir. Projections of escapement have trended downward in recent days since bait was allowed by regulation in the sport fishery and this trend is expected to continue to a level where the SEG is not projected to be attained. As of August 9, a count of 3,146 coho salmon had passed upstream of the weir and the escapement is projected to be 9,318 fish and decreasing. Sport harvest can exceed escapement in average to below-average run years due to the high effort in this fishery. At this time, it is justified to reduce catch efficiency of coho salmon at the Little Susitna River in order to slow harvest and reverse the downward trend in escapement to ensure the SEG is met.

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.