

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-59-23

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
December 31, 2023, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, to three fish, of which, only one may be a coho salmon for the waters of Little Susitna River drainage open to salmon fishing downstream of the Parks Highway bridge. Use of bait remains prohibited under a separate emergency order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122(9)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 17 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023.

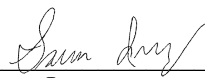
5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(F) salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit is three fish, of which only one may be a coho salmon; a person, after taking a bag limit of salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length from the Little Susitna River, may not sport fish that same day for any species of fish in waters open to sport fishing for salmon on the Little Susitna River;

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 is needed to assure achievement of the SEG as the objective incorporates an anticipated harvest of nearly 1,000 fish upstream of the weir. Recent daily weir counts are well below average. As of August 14, 2023, only 3,439 coho salmon had passed upstream of the weir and the escapement is projected to be 6,685 fish. At this time, it is justified to further reduce the harvest of coho salmon at the Little Susitna River until the run can be further assessed to ensure the SEG is met.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-SS-2-55-23 issued Thursday, August 10, 2023, prohibits the use of bait on the Little Susitna River. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. This emergency order includes all

waters of the Little Susitna River from its confluence with Cook inlet upstream to the Parks Highway. This emergency order remains in effect through Saturday, September 30, 2023.

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.