

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-KS-5-43-23

**Issued at:** Dillingham, Tuesday, July 11, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 13, 2023

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon of any size and prohibits the use of bait and multiple hooks in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure is allowed.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022(g)(1) and (6) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 13 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023:

#### **5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

(1) king salmon may not be possessed or retained; all king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(6) from July 13 – 31, only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used, except as provided in (4) of this subsection.

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Lee Borden,  
Bristol Bay Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The sustainable escapement goal for Nushagak River king salmon is 55,000-120,000 fish. Through July 10, 2023, an estimated 29,636 king salmon have passed the sonar at Portage Creek. With current projections falling below the escapement goal range action is warranted to prohibit sport harvest. Therefore, it is justified to restrict the Nushagak River drainage king salmon sport fishery to catch-and-release in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.