

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-SS-2-62-23

**Issued at:** Palmer, Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 19, 2023

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September 30, 2023, unless superseded by  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

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-59-23, issued on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 and closes the Little Susitna River to fishing for coho salmon and continues to prohibit the use of bait effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 19, 2023. 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. The closure prohibits sport fishing for coho salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. Coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

### 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The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order.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 19 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 2023:

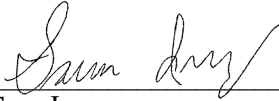
#### **5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) from August 19 – September 30, in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; from August 19 – December 31, bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, greater than 16 inches in length is three fish, of which none may be coho salmon; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, less than 16 inches in length is ten fish, of which none may be coho salmon; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

  
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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. Further evaluation of

run size based on daily weir counts and observations by staff indicate more stringent action be taken to conserve coho salmon returning to the Little Susitna River. As of August 15, 2023, only 3,445 coho salmon had passed upstream of the weir and the escapement is projected to be 5,300 fish. Reports of fishing success have been low over the majority of fishing days this season. Therefore, it is warranted to conserve the remaining coho salmon returning to the Little Susitna River to ensure achievement of the SEG.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-59-23, which reduced the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to one fish beginning August 17, 2023, is superseded.

**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.