

PERSONAL USE

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-19-23

Issued at: Glennallen, Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 20, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 10, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the possession limit in the Upper Copper River drainage for king salmon, 20 inches or longer, from one to two fish. The bag limit for king salmon, 20 inches or longer, remains at one fish, with an annual limit of 4 fish.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022(a)(3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 20, 2023:

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.


(a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 52.023, or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and method and means that apply to sport fishing for finfish in the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area:

(3) king salmon: may be taken only from January 1 – July 19, as follows;

(A) 20 inches or greater in length; bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; annual limit of four fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____


Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal for king salmon in the Copper River drainage is 21,000–31,000 fish. The 2023 Copper River king salmon run is projected to exceed 50,000 fish and the upper bound of the escapement goal. This projection is based on the Native Village of Eyak fish wheel capture rates and anticipated upriver harvests. King salmon harvests in the subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries appear above average indicating a large run size. King salmon apportionment at the Miles Lake sonar also support this projection. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the escapement goal. Therefore, an increase in the king salmon possession limit in the Upper Copper River drainage is warranted to provide additional harvest opportunity.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7357, and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.