

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-9-25

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
June 18, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 20, 2025

Expiration Date: Monday, August 11,
2025, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Upper Copper River drainage from four to one fish. In addition, the use of bait and treble hooks in the Gulkana River is also prohibited as an additional conservation measure. Any king salmon harvested from the Upper Copper River drainage prior to June 20 does not count toward the one fish annual limit.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022 (a)(3) and 5 AAC 52.023 (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 20:

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)(3) the sport fishing season for king salmon is from January 1 – July 19, as follows;

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

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(B) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Tracy R. Hansen
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.361) directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. The 2025 king salmon run to the Copper River appears weaker than the preseason forecast of 36,000 king salmon. The current inriver abundance projection, based on Native Village of Eyak fish wheel capture rates at Baird Canyon and fish wheel recapture rates at Canyon Creek, estimates a final inriver number of king salmon near the lower end of the salmon escapement goal. King salmon abundance may be insufficient to allow unrestricted harvest in the sport fishery and achieve the lower end of the escapement goal, therefore restricting the Upper Copper River drainage king salmon sport fishery is

warranted. Additionally, indices of early run king salmon returning to the Copper River appear weaker than anticipated based on NVE fish wheel recapture rates at Canyon Creek through June 15. Past radiotelemetry studies show that Upper Copper and Gulkana River king salmon stocks are the earliest stocks returning to the Copper River. Therefore, the Gulkana River warrants additional restrictions.

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.