

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-43-26

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2026 **Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and reduces the bag limit for coho salmon in the Little Susitna River. 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.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122(a)(9)(B) are superseded and 5 AAC 60.122(a)(9)(N) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2026:

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.

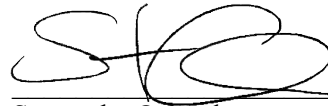
(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(B) in the flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(N) salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit is three fish, of which no more than one per day and one in possession may be coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Samantha Oslund
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 9,200 – 17,700 fish. While still early in the run, projections indicate the SEG may not be achieved. The Little Susitna River weir was damaged in flooding events at the beginning of the season but was operational again on July 30. Through August 3, 438 coho salmon have passed upstream of the Little Susitna River weir. These daily counts are below average and similar to counts in 2024 and 2025 when the escapement goal was not achieved. Reducing harvest potential in the sport fishery is warranted given the low daily counts at the Little Susitna River weir and considering

the poor performance of coho salmon escapement in recent years. Additional action may be taken in the sport fishery as more information becomes available in season.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.