

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-47-26

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 17, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 19,
2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2026, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds and replaces Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-44-26, issued August 4, 2026, and further restricts the sport fishery for coho salmon in the Susitna River by prohibiting the retention of coho salmon and continuing the prohibition on the use of bait.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.110 (2)(A), 5 AAC 61.112 (1)(3), 5 AAC 61.114 (3), 5 AAC 61.116 (6), 5 AAC 61.118 (1)(3), 5 AAC 61.120 (1)(6), and 5 AAC 61.122 (1)(6) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 19 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026:

5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(2) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit for chum and sockeye salmon is three fish; coho salmon may not be retained or possessed, coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) in flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(3) except in Alexander Creek, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is three fish per day with six in possession, coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately; after taking a bag limit of three salmon 16 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for salmon on that same day;

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(3) in flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(6) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon is three fish, coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) in all flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(3) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon is three fish per day with six in possession, coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) in all flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(6) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon is three fish, coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) in flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(6) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon is three fish, coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Samantha Oslund
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Deshka River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 10,200–24,100 fish. The Deshka River weir was damaged during flooding events on July 15 and is no longer operational. Given the poor performance of coho salmon escapement in the Susitna River drainage in recent years and poor indicators of abundance this year, this action is warranted to conserve coho salmon in the Susitna River drainage. The department will continue to monitor coho salmon run strength in Upper Cook Inlet and if run strength improves to a level that can support harvest, restrictions on the sport fishery may be rescinded.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-44-26, which reduced the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to one fish and prohibited bait in the Susitna River drainage beginning August 6, 2026 is rescinded and replaced by this emergency order.

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.