

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-44-24

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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 within the Susitna River drainage.

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(1)(3), 5 AAC 61.114 (3), 5 AAC 61.116 (6), 5 AAC 61.118 (1)(3), 5 AAC 61.120 (1)(6), and 5 AAC 61.122 (1)(6) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Thursday, August 6 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 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, sockeye and coho salmon is three fish, of which no more than one per day, one in possession may be coho salmon; if retention of coho salmon is allowed under this chapter, a coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person that originally hooked it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

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, of which no more than one per day and two in possession may be a coho salmon; 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, of which no more than one per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon;

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, of which no more than one per day and two in possession may be a coho salmon;

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, of which no more than one per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon;

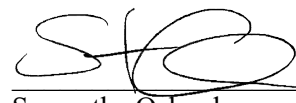
5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(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, of which no more than one per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon;

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 in flooding events on July 15 and is no longer operational. Given the poor performance of coho salmon escapement in recent years, this action is warranted to conserve coho salmon in the Susitna River drainage. 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.