

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-02-12

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Effective date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Expiration Date: December 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sport fishing bag and possession limit for king salmon to one king salmon in all tributaries of the Yukon River (excluding the Tanana River drainage), effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, 2012. This emergency order also closes all waters of the mainstem Yukon River to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

All king salmon caught from tributaries of the Yukon River that exceed the bag and possession limit of one king salmon and all king salmon from the mainstem Yukon River caught unintentionally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. (b)(1) are superseded and (c)(7) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, 2012:

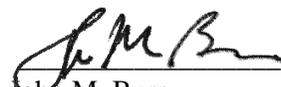
5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.

(b)(1) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish.

(c)(7) in the mainstem of the Yukon River, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon caught unintentionally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



John M. Burr
Yukon River Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Current projections suggest that the Yukon River king salmon run in 2012 will be weak and will continue the trend in weak runs experienced since 2007. In 2007, 2008 and 2010, the interim management escapement goal for king salmon into Canada was not attained. In 2009 and 2011 the interim escapement goal was attained as a result of very conservative management including reductions in subsistence fishing time in the mainstem Yukon River, no commercial fishery directed at king salmon, and sport fishery restrictions and closures.

To conserve king salmon bound for Canada, the preseason management strategy is to reduce subsistence fishing beginning with the first pulse of king salmon entering the Yukon River. No commercial fishery for king salmon or sale of king salmon caught incidentally in other commercial fisheries in 2012 is expected. The anticipated low abundance of king salmon into the Yukon River, the recent failures to reach border passage goals, and restrictions placed on the subsistence fishery warrant a reduction in the sport king salmon bag and possession limit in the tributaries of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) and closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River mainstem.

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 99701, (907) 459-7228.