

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-11-22

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
June 15, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 20, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 10,
2022, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in all waters of the Copper River upstream of Haley Creek. King salmon may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait and treble hooks is also prohibited in all flowing waters.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022. (a)(3)(A) and (B), and 5 AAC 52.023. (3)(A), (9)(B), (12), and (25)(A)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 20 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, 2022:

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) king salmon: may be taken only from January 1 – July 19 as follows;

(A) 20 inches or great in length; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) less than 20 inches in length; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

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.

(3) in the Copper River drainage, in that portion of the mainstem of the Copper River downstream from the confluence of the Copper River and the Slana River,

(A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage

(B) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in that portion of the mainstem of the Gulkana River upstream from the Richardson Highway Bridge to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately at an unnamed creek flowing into the Gulkana River about seven and one-half miles upstream from the confluence with the West Fork of the Gulkana River;


(12) in the Klutina River drainage, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(25) in the Tonsina River drainage,

(A) in all flowing waters downstream from the outlet of Tonsina Lake,

(i) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* directs the department to manage all Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 21,000 to 31,000 king salmon in the Copper River drainage. The 2022 king salmon run to the Copper River appears to be weaker than the preseason forecast of 40,000 king salmon. The inseason inriver abundance estimate, based on Native Village of Eyak fish wheel capture rates at Baird Canyon and fish wheel recapture rates at Canyon Creek, project a final inriver estimate near the lower bound of the king salmon escapement goal. Additionally, declines in daily king salmon apportionment at the Miles Lake sonar, are consistent with declining capture rates at the NVE Baird Canyon fish wheels. Therefore, prohibiting the retention of king salmon in the sport fishery is justified to ensure the sustainable escapement goal is achieved.

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.