

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-I-03-20

Issued at: Glennallen, Wednesday,
June 10, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 15, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 31,
2020, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order amends the schedule for the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District for the week of June 15, 2020.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 77.001(b) and 5 AAC 77.591 *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* and authority under AS 16.05.060, the personal use dip net salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will be open from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. Monday, June 15 and open from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 18 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 21.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Mark A. Somerville
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction of the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30 and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. Copper River District commercial harvest of sockeye salmon through June 1 totaled 71,370 fish compared to the most recent 5-year average harvest of 307,680 sockeye salmon. Salmon passage by the Miles Lake sonar is 62% of the objective for this date and passage continues to be below the daily objectives and is trending downward. As of June 8, a total of 166,158 salmon were counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this date was 268,366 salmon, which results in a deficit of 102,208 salmon. Additionally, during June 1 – 7, there were 90,608 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 109,823 salmon, which results in a weekly deficit of 19,215 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to allow 155 hours of fishing time during the week of June 15 – 21, a decrease of 13 hours from the preseason schedule. Due to overall low sockeye salmon passage and concerns of achieving the sockeye salmon escapement goal, an additional reduction of 35 hours from the normally calculated fishing time based on

weekly sonar passage is warranted. This additional reduction in fishing time is intended to spread harvest and provide fishing opportunity throughout the run while taking a conservative management approach.

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.