

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-45-24

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, August 2, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to three per day, three in possession, of which, only one per day, one in possession may be a coho salmon for the waters of Alexander Creek, Unit 2 (Parks Highway streams), Unit 3 (upper Susitna north of Talkeetna), Unit 5 (Talkeetna River drainage), and Unit 6 (Chulitna River drainage) of the Susitna River drainage. This emergency order also reduces the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to three per day with six in possession, of which, only one per day and two in possession may be a coho salmon for the waters of Unit 1 (includes Deshka River and excludes Alexander Creek) and Unit 4 (Yentna River) of the Susitna River drainage. This emergency further prohibits the use of bait in all flowing waters of the Susitna River drainage. Only unbaited, artificial lures are allowed.

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(1)(3), 5 AAC 61.114 (3), 5 AAC 61.116 (6), 5 AAC 61.118 (1)(3), 5 AAC 61.120 (1)(6), and 5 AAC 61.122 (1)(6) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Tuesday, August 6 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024:

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 is three fish, of which no more than one per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon; 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 originally hooking 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. As of August 1, only 270 coho salmon have passed upstream of the weir with a projected escapement of 1,444 fish. Although it is early in the run, reports of fishing success for coho salmon and weir counts indicate coho abundance is

low throughout Northern Cook Inlet. Therefore, it is warranted to reduce coho salmon mortality in the inriver fisheries of the Susitna River drainage while the run strength is assessed.

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.