

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-47-24

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 12, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 15, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-45-24, issued August 2, 2024, which reduced the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to one fish and prohibited bait in the Susitna River drainage. This emergency order closes the Susitna River drainage to sport fishing for coho salmon. Further, use of bait continues to be prohibited in all flowing waters of the Susitna River drainage, only 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(1)(3), 5 AAC 61.114 (3), 5 AAC 61.116 (6), 5 AAC 61.118 (1)(3), 5 AAC 61.120 (1)(6), and 5 AAC 61.122 (1)(6) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Thursday, August 15 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 and coho salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit is three fish; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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 and coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is three fish per day with six in possession; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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 and coho salmon is three fish; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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 and coho salmon is three fish per day with six in possession; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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 and coho salmon is three fish; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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; sport fishing for coho salmon is closed, coho salmon of any length may not be retained or possessed; coho salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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 12, only 642 coho salmon have passed upstream of the weir with a projected escapement of 1,375 fish. Daily weir counts indicate poor escapements and is projecting to not achieve the SEG. Reports by guides and anglers and observations by staff indicate below average fishing success on the majority of fishing days to date across the Susitna River drainage streams. Therefore, it is warranted to close the Susitna River drainage to sport fishing for coho salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-45-24, which reduced the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to one fish and prohibited bait in the Susitna River drainage beginning August 6, 2024 is superseded by this emergency order.

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.