

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-I-8-24

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Wednesday,  
June 19, 2024

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 24, 2024

**Expiration Date:** Sunday, August 11,  
2024, unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon of any size and prohibits the use of bait and multiple hooks in the sport fisheries occurring in all flowing waters of the Upper Copper River drainage upstream of the south bank of Haley Creek. King salmon may not be retained or possessed, must be released immediately, and may not be removed from the water before releasing the fish.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022 (a)(3) and 5 AAC 52.023 (3)(A), (9)(B), (12)(C)(i) and (E) and (G), (25)(A)(i) and (ii) and (E), and (32) are superseded and 5 AAC 52.023 (22)(C) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 24:

#### **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) the sport fishing season for king salmon is from January 1 – July 19; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all 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 Slana River,

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

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(B) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

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

(C) in all flowing waters upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road,

(i) the sport fishing season for king salmon is from July 1 – July 19, excluding Manker Creek; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 19.2 on the Klutina Lake Road, the sport fishing season for king salmon is from July 1 – July 31; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(G) in all flowing waters downstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located at Mile 13 on the Klutina Lake Road, the sport fishing season for king salmon from July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(22) in the Tazlina River drainage,

(C) in the quarter-mile radius around the mouth of Kaina Creek, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(25) in the Tonsina River drainage,

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

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

(ii) the sport fishing season for king salmon is July 1 – July 19; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(E) in all flowing waters downstream of the downstream edge of the Alyeska Pipeline crossing bridge, the sport fishing season for king salmon is July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(32) in the Copper River drainage, downstream of the upstream bank of the Klutina River, the sport fishing season for king salmon is July 1 – August 10; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Somerville  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.361) directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. The 2024 king salmon run to the Copper River appears weaker than the preseason forecast of 47,000 king salmon. Catch rates of king salmon in the Native Village of Eyak research fish wheels through June 17 are the lowest on record since 2003 and recapture rates indicate a potential inriver return near the lower bound of the king salmon escapement goal. Additionally, review of sonar king salmon apportionment trends over the last 5 years and anecdotal catch reports from the personal use, subsistence, and sport fisheries also indicate king salmon abundance may be less than expected. Due to the concerns that the king salmon escapement goal may not be met, restricting the Upper Copper River drainage king salmon sport fishery is warranted.

**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.