

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-I-9-24

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Tuesday, June 25, 2024

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2024

**Expiration Date:** Sunday, August 11, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Upper Copper River drainage upstream of the south bank of Haley Creek to sport fishing for king salmon. King salmon may not be taken or possessed and must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait in specified flowing waters is also prohibited.

### 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(a)(3) and 5 AAC 52.023 (3)(A), (9)(B), (12)(C)(i) and (E) and (G), (22)(A), (25)(A)(i) and (ii) and (E), and (32) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 29 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 10:

#### **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) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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,

(A) in all flowing waters entering Tazlina Lake, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught incidentally 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 (SEG) of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. The 2024 king salmon run to the Copper River is unlikely to achieve the lower bound of the escapement goal based on inseason assessment and projected inriver harvest, unless retention of king salmon in all Upper Copper River fisheries is prohibited. Inseason abundance estimates from the Native Village of Eyak mark-recapture project indicate that the final inriver king salmon abundance estimate will be near the lower bound of the SEG, prior to accounting for inriver harvest. As of June 23, cumulative king salmon passage at the Gulkana River counting tower is 55% below the historical average and the apportionment of king salmon at the Miles Lake sonar is similar to that observed in 2021 when the lower bound of the king salmon SEG was not achieved. Anecdotal catch reports from the personal use, subsistence, and sport fisheries also indicate king salmon abundance is less than expected. Due to the concerns that the king salmon escapement goal may not be met, closing the Upper Copper River king salmon sport fisheries is warranted.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order 3-KS-I-8-24, issued Wednesday, June 19, 2024, prohibited the retention of king salmon and 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, effective Monday, June 24, 2024, is superseded by this emergency order.

**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.