

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-V-02-17

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 1, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, 2017, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay) to sport fishing for king salmon. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Kuskokwim River Drainage.

All king salmon caught incidentally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area. (c)(3)(A), and (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, 2017:

5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.

(c)(3)(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(c)(3)(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit of all salmon species may not exceed three salmon.

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(d)(1)(G) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim River Drainage not specified in (d)(1)(A-F).

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:


John Chythlook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Preseason projections suggest that the Kuskokwim River king salmon run in 2017 may be similar to 2016 when the Kuskokwim River experienced an estimated total run of approximately 176,000 and spawning escapement of approximately 145,000. In 2016, the drainagewide escapement goal was achieved and exceeded the upper bound of 120,000 king salmon, however, this was largely due to long term closures of the subsistence fishery. Restrictions to the subsistence king salmon fishery are expected again in 2017.

The anticipated closure of the subsistence fishery on the Kuskokwim River warrants a total closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks.

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) 459-7207.