

SUBSISTENCE

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-I-10-24

Issued at: Glennallen, Tuesday, June 25, 2024

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 1, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery to the retention of king salmon. Any king salmon incidentally taken may not be retained and must be released immediately. In addition, fish wheels must be closely attended while fishing.

REGULATION:

Consistent with the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 24.361(e), the subsistence salmon fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will close at 11:59 p.m. Friday, June 28. The Glennallen Subdistrict reopens at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 29 and the retention of king salmon is prohibited. The provisions of 5 AAC 01.620 (c)(4) and 5 AAC 01.645 (1), (2), and (4) are superseded by this emergency order effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2024:

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

(c) Fish wheels used for subsistence fishing may be operated only as follows:

- (4) a permit holder may operate only one fish wheel at a time and a fish wheel may be operated only by one permit holder at a time; that permit holder must:
 - (A) have the fish wheel marked as specified in this subsection during fishing operations; and
 - (B) closely attend the wheel while it is in operation;

5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits.

(a) The total annual possession limits for a Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing permit is as follows:

- (1) for a household with one person: 30 salmon, other than king salmon; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;
- (2) for a household with two persons: 60 salmon, other than king salmon; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;
- (4) upon request, a permit for additional salmon will be issued with the following limits:
 - (A) no more than a total of 200 salmon, other than king salmon, for a permit issued to a household with one person; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;
 - (B) no more than a total of 500 salmon, other than king salmon, for a permit issued to a household with two or more persons; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; all king salmon caught must be released immediately;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Mark 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 Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery to the retention of king salmon 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.