

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-SS-01-11

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday August 25,  
2011

Effective Date: 6:00 p.m. Saturday August 27, 2011

Expiration Date: October 15, 2011, unless  
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all fresh water drainages and salt waters of Northern Norton Sound between Cape Rodney and Topkok Head to sport fishing for coho salmon, effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday August 27, 2011. In addition, the use of bait while sport fishing in these waters is prohibited.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Northwestern Area (c) (3) (B) and 5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

#### **5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Area.**

(c)(3)(B) coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit, except that in all fresh water drainages and the salt waters of Northern Norton Sound between the tip of Cape Rodney and the tip of Topkok Head, including the Sinuk, Cripple, Penny, Snake, Nome, Flambeau, Eldorado, Bonanza, and Solomon rivers sport fishing for coho salmon is closed;

#### **5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.**

(f) the use of bait in all fresh water drainages and salt waters of Northern Norton Sound between Cape Rodney and Topkok Head is prohibited.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Brendan Scanlon  
Northwest Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Escapement counts of coho salmon at the weir on the Nome River are below historic averages. As of August 23, only 450 coho salmon had passed through the weir. From 2006 – 2010 an average of 1,338 coho salmon had passed through the weir by this date. Additionally, the weir on the nearby Snake River is showing a similar decline in coho salmon passage from recent years. Due to the current low escapement of coho salmon in these drainages and lack of escapement information on similar nearby drainages in Northern Norton Sound, the prohibition of sport fishing for coho salmon and the use of bait are warranted to ensure sufficient numbers of fish reach the spawning grounds. Affected drainages found in this area include the Sinuk, Cripple, Penny, Snake, Nome, Flambeau, Eldorado, Bonanza, and Solomon rivers. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that sufficient numbers of coho salmon will return to these rivers to sustain a sport fishery, restrictions will be relaxed.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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