

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-57-15

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 31, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2015 Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Jim Creek to sport fishing for salmon beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday September 2, 2015.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 ACC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area. (8)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2015;

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(8) in the Knik River drainage, including Jim Creek and the Eklutna Tailrace, as follows:

(F) except as specified in (B) of this paragraph, in the Jim Creek drainage, downstream to the Knik River and continuing downstream, on the Knik River to the boundary of the closed waters described in (A) of this paragraph, sport fishing is open for all finfish species except salmon, except that

(i) from the second Saturday in August through December 31, sport fishing is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Samantha Oslund,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The coho salmon fishery at Jim Creek has become one of the largest fisheries in Knik Arm. Jim Creek experienced below average run strength in 2010-2012, and 2014 and failed to attain the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 450 – 700 fish as indexed by an annual foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a tributary within the Jim Creek drainage. The 2015 run of coho salmon to Jim Creek appears to be

tracking below years the weir was operated (1993, 1994) and the goal was achieved. While angler reports of fishing success have improved recently on other Knik Arm streams, fishing success has been sporadic and below average for this time of the season at Jim Creek. Staff surveys conducted late last week indicated fewer fish than needed for achieving the escapement goal. Given the weak showing of coho salmon in Jim Creek, it is warranted to restrict recreational fishing activity at this time. Fish, Cottonwood, and Wasilla creeks are excluded from this restriction because the coho salmon escapement goal has been achieved at Fish Creek and run strength at Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks typically mirrors that of Fish Creek.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.