

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-PS-6-49-15

Issued at: Anchorage, Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency Order increases the pink salmon bag and possession limit in the salt waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point (Valdez Narrows) to 12 fish per day, 24 in possession effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29. Fresh water salmon closures remain in effect for Port Valdez.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. (1)(B)(ii) are superseded by this Emergency Order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2015:

### **5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.**

(1) the following special provisions apply to salmon, other than king salmon:

(B) within the following terminal harvest areas, the bag limit is six fish; and the possession limit is 12 fish:

(ii) VALDEZ VICINITY: the salt waters north of a line from Point Freemantle to Rocky Point, excluding Jack Bay, Sawmill Bay, and Galena Bay; except that in all salt waters north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is 12 fish per day, 24 in possession.

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Mike Thalhauser  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

As provided in 5 AAC 75.003 (2)(B), the department may use emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when hatchery produced fish escape through existing fisheries to

designated harvest areas in numbers that exceed brood stock needs or any natural spawning requirements. Pink salmon returns to the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery (SGH) are far above anticipated. Pink salmon cost recovery efforts for this hatchery have been completed and they have secured sufficient broodstock at SGH. As of July 26, the commercial fishing periods in the Eastern District have harvested over 32 million pink salmon. No wild stock concerns will occur from the increased bag limits and it is warranted to increase the pink salmon bag and possession limits in the Port Valdez marine waters for these surplus hatchery fish.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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