

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-04-15

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday, June 4, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 8, 2015

Expiration Date: August 15, 2015, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 3-KS-03-15 issued on May 21, 2015 and extends the area closed to sport fishing for king salmon. All waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof are closed to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 8, 2015. This closure includes marine waters as well as freshwaters including, but not limited to, the Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, and Golsovia river drainages.

All king salmon caught unintentionally, in the waters described above, while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be release immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area, (c)(11) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 8, 2015:

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

(c)(11) In all waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon unintentionally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Don Roach
Regional Supervisor

JUSTIFICATION:

Preseason projections indicate that king salmon runs into the rivers of southern Norton Sound will be poor. The king salmon Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) at the North River counting tower on the Unalakleet River is 1,200 – 2,600 fish, and has been met just 3 times in the previous 10 years (2005 – 2014). King salmon stocks throughout western Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since 2010 below average run strength, and since 2006 in the Unalakleet River drainage.

The Department does not have escapement goals for king salmon in the Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, or Golsovia rivers, but there is no indication that king salmon runs in southern Norton Sound are going to be better than those in other western Alaska drainages such as the Yukon and Kuskokwim river drainages, both of which have already been closed to sport fishing for king salmon by emergency order. Subsistence fishing closures for king salmon will be implemented in southern Norton Sound waters beginning June 8th. The Department will continue to evaluate inseason run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701, (907) 459-7228.