

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-4-41-16

Issued at: Kodiak, Tuesday,
September 13, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 16, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
December 31, 2016, unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing, including catch-and-release fishing, for coho salmon in the Buskin River drainage. Coho salmon may not be possessed or retained; coho salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Buskin River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area. (b)(14) and 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. (j) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 16 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2016:

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

(b)(14) in the Buskin River drainage, sport fishing for coho salmon is closed. Coho salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(j) Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Buskin River drainage.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Tyler Polum,
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The escapement goal for coho salmon in the Buskin River drainage is 4,700 to 9,600 fish. As of September 12, the weir count was 1,329 coho salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 54% of the run has past the weir indicating this goal may not be achieved. Therefore, in an effort to increase spawning escapement, sport fishing for coho salmon is closed. Sport fishing opportunity may be restored by subsequent emergency order if weir counts of Buskin River coho salmon improve and indicate the escapement goal will be achieved.

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.