

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-02-16

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, March 25, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, May 1, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sport fishing bag and possession limit for king salmon to one fish in all tributaries of Kuskokwim Bay effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, May 1, 2016.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area. (c)(11) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m. Sunday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2016:

5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area.

(c)(11) in all waters draining into Kuskokwim Bay south of the south bank of Warehouse Creek and north of Cape Newenham, the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

by delegation to:



John Chythflook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon escapement at the Kanektok River weir in 2015 was the highest in recent years, at over 10,000 fish. This follows several years of low escapements. The aerial survey escapement goals were met at the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers in 2015. The 2015 king salmon escapement at the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir was near and slightly below the escapement goal. While king salmon escapements improved in 2015, due to recent poor king salmon returns to the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers a reduction in the sport fishing bag limit is warranted to ensure king salmon escapement goals are met in 2016 while continuing to provide harvest opportunity throughout the run.

If inseason stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement is adequate in the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers and subsistence needs are being met, sport fishing restrictions may be relaxed.

DISTRIBUTION:

- The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.