

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-05-16

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, May 6, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 9, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 15, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the king salmon bag and annual limit from two to one fish in Unalakleet River drainage. In addition, this emergency order establishes an annual limit of one king salmon in all waters of the Shaktoolik River drainage.

### REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 04.395 Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan, the provisions of 5 AAC 70.011 Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area (c)(9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 9, 2016:

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

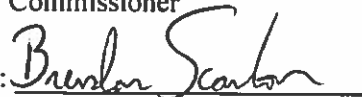
(c)(9) In all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages,

(A) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish;

(B) the annual limit for king salmon is one fish; an angler fishing for king salmon must possess and complete a current year's nontransferable harvest record as described in 5 AAC 75.006;

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Brendan Scanlon

Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

May 3, 2016

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2016 preseason outlook for the Unalakleet River drainage king salmon run is expected to be sufficient to provide for a moderate harvestable surplus. According to the *Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan*, when the inriver subsistence fishery is limited to less than two 36-hour openings or the subsistence fishery in the marine waters of subdistricts 5 and 6 are restricted to a gillnet mesh size of six inches or less, the sport fish bag, possession, and annual limit for king salmon will be reduced to one fish. At this time, restrictions are planned to limit the Unalakleet River subsistence fishery to two periods per week of less than 36 hours each and the marine subsistence fishery to a gillnet mesh size of six inches or less.

The department does not have reliable stock assessment information for the Shaktoolik River, but the king salmon run generally cycles in accordance with Unalakleet River stocks and warrants similar restrictions to the Shaktoolik River drainage. The department will 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, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.