

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-A-08-17

Issued at Ketchikan, Monday
March 6, 2017

Effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday,
Date: April 1, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,
August 14, 2017 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order establishes regulatory actions to reduce sport harvest of Unuk River king salmon. This emergency order closes a portion of northern Behm Canal to salmon fishing; reduces the king salmon bag and possession to one fish in west Behm Canal and Herring Bay Sport Terminal Harvest Area; postpones liberalizing regulations in the Herring Bay Sport Terminal Harvest Area; and increases the duration of the salmon closure in east Behm Canal while providing opportunity to harvest Whitman Lake hatchery king salmon in Herring Bay.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 33.369(d) and 5 AAC 47.021(j)(3) are superseded and 5 AAC 47.021(j)(7)(8) and (9) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 1 through Monday, August 14, 2017:

5 AAC 33.369. District 1: Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

(d) in the waters of the Herring Bay Sportfish Terminal Harvest Area which includes the waters of Nichols Pass north of the latitude of Driest Point, Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Harbor Point, and Tongass Narrows south of the latitude of the Lewis Reef light; The following conditions apply from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 1, 2017 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, June 30, 2017:

- (1) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) the nonresident annual limit is three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length.

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(j) in the Ketchikan vicinity:

(3) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays between a line from Point Eva to Cactus Point and the latitude of Point Nelson (55° 18.00' N. lat.), salmon may be taken only from August 15 – March 31;

(7) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from Point Lees to Elsie Point and a line from Elsie Point to the longitude of the outlet of Long Lake (131°26.100' W. long.), and to the south by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55°56.036' N. lat., 131°37.943' W. long. to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55°54.276' N. lat., 131°37.798' W. long., and a line from Fin Point at 55°51.256' N. lat., 131°35.415' W. long. to Dress Point at 55°51.145' N. lat., 131°33.748' W. long., fishing for salmon is closed from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 1, 2017 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 14, 2017;

(8) in west Behm Canal enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55°56.036' N. lat., 131°37.943' W. long. to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55°54.276' N. lat., 131°37.798' W. long. and a line from Fin Point at 55°51.256' N. lat., 131°35.415' W. long. to Dress Point at 55°51.145' N. lat., 131°33.748' W. long., and to the south by a line from Niblack Point at 55°32.998' N. lat., 132°07.228' W. long., to South Vallenar Point at 55°22.878' N. lat., 131°52.747' W. long., and Tongass Narrows north of the latitude of the Lewis Reef light; from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 14, 2017:

- (A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;
- (B) the nonresident annual limit is three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;

(9) in the waters of Herring Bay west of a line from the southernmost entrance of Hole-In-The-Wall harbor at 55°19.110' N. lat., 131°31.187' W. long. to ADF&G markers located ½ mile north of Whitman Creek (signed and painted rocks) at 55°20.125' N. lat., 131°30.126' W. long., to the fresh/salt water boundary signs located at the mouth of Herring Cove Creek from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2017;

- (A) the bag and possession limit is six king salmon, with no size limit; and,
- (B) king salmon harvested in the terminal harvest area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Kelly Reppert
Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: Unuk River king salmon, like other Southeast Alaska king salmon stocks, are experiencing a period of low productivity. The Unuk River king salmon escapement goal is 1,800–3,800 fish. After attaining its escapement goal for 35 consecutive years, the Unuk River failed to achieve the goal in four of the last five years. That trend is expected to continue for the 2017 season. The 2017 preseason forecast is for a total run of approximately 1,500 king salmon. Since the 2017 forecast is not expected to provide for the escapement goal, the actions implemented in this emergency order are necessary to reduce the harvest of Unuk River king salmon.

In addition to the protection of Unuk River king salmon, this emergency order provides opportunity to harvest Whitman Lake hatchery king salmon returning to Herring Bay. Whitman Lake hatchery king salmon in excess of broodstock requirements are expected to return to the saltwater terminal area of Herring Bay and few Unuk River king salmon are expected to be in the area.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.