

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-F-05-17

Issued at: Haines, Monday,
March 6, 2017

Effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday,
Date: April 15, 2017

Expiration Date: Sunday, December 31, 2017
at 11:59 p.m. unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits sport fishing for king salmon in the waters of Section 15-A, Lynn Canal north of the ADF&G regulatory marker at Sherman Rock, including Chilkat Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet, Lutak Inlet, and Taiya Inlet.

REGULATION:

Consistent with stipulations within 5 AAC 33.384. *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Management Plan*, the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(c) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017:

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.

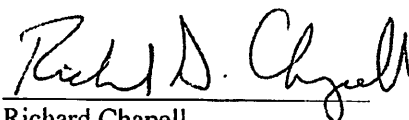
(c) In the Haines and Skagway vicinity:

(1) Chilkat Inlet, north of the ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point, is closed to king salmon sport fishing from April 15 through July 15.

(2) In Section 15-A, the waters of Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Sherman Rock (5 AAC 33.200(o)(1)), retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed from April 15 through December 31.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Richard Chapell
Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The king salmon sport fishery in Chilkat Inlet is managed under the directives of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384). This plan prescribes management measures to be implemented by the department for the king salmon sport fishery based upon the preseason projected inriver abundance of Chilkat River king salmon, inseason fisheries performance, and inriver stock assessment programs. Catch per unit effort data from department drift gillnet and fish wheel stock assessment projects in the lower Chilkat River provides inseason run strength assessment after July 10 each year.

Based on Chilkat River king salmon age composition data from harvest and escapement sampling, sibling survival rates and average harvest rates in the most recent five years (2012 – 2016), the 2017 projected inriver run is 600 large fish (three ocean age and older), which is below the lower end of the inriver abundance goal range (1,850 to 3,600 large fish) for the Chilkat River. At this projected abundance level, the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Management Plan* prescribes closing sport fishing for king salmon in Chilkat Inlet north of Seduction Point through June 30.

Given poor marine survival rates of Chilkat River king salmon from brood years 2011 and 2012, which will provide the large mature spawning escapement in 2017, additional fishery restrictions to conserve Chilkat River king salmon are warranted. Approximately 100 large mature Chilkat River king salmon could be conserved by closing Chilkat Inlet to sport fishing for king salmon through July 15. Prohibiting the retention of king salmon in Section 15-A, which includes Chilkat Inlet, for the remainder of 2017 could conserve an additional 50 rearing large king salmon that will spawn in 2018. In addition, commercial fisheries in Lynn Canal will be limited in time and area through July 15 and subsistence fisheries in Chilkat Inlet and in the Chilkat River will be limited through July 31 to increase king salmon escapement.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.