

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-27-18

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, July 2, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 14, 2018,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, to six fish per day and twelve fish in possession in that area of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.122. (3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 30 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 14, 2018:

5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(3)(A) in waters of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing, including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth, and the Russian River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls, the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon 16 inches or greater in length, is six fish and possession limit of twelve fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be a coho salmon;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt Miller
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through Sunday, July 1, 2018, over 32,700 sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir, located upstream of the falls. Average run timing to this date is approximately 70%. ADF&G estimates that the escapement will exceed the early-run sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) of 22,000 – 42,000 sockeye salmon. Based on this information, it is appropriate to liberalize the fishery to harvest sockeye salmon in excess of the escapement goal by allowing anglers the opportunity to harvest six sockeye salmon a day in the Russian and Upper Kenai rivers.

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.