

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-W-05-18

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 19, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, 2018, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 3-KS-W-02-18, issued on Monday, May 14, 2018 and opens sport fishing for king salmon in all waters of the Unalakleet River drainage with a bag and possession limit of one fish, with no size limit, and an annual limit for king salmon of two fish. All other freshwaters of southern Norton Sound including the Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, and Golsovia river drainages will remain closed to sport fishing for king salmon and the use of bait prohibited in these waters.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area (c)(10) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 19, 2018:

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

(c)(10) in all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, excluding the Unalakleet River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(f) In all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, excluding the Unalakleet River drainage, the use of bait is prohibited.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Brendan Scanlon

JUSTIFICATION:

Daily escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River have increased recently, and the midpoint of the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 1,900 fish is projected to be exceeded. According to the *Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan*, when the subsistence fishery in the Unalakleet River drainage is opened to at least two 36-hour periods per week, or the subsistence fishery in the marine waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6 is opened to at least two 48-hour periods per week, the sport fish bag and possession limit for king salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage is one fish, with no size limit, and an annual harvest limit of two fish.

Inseason stock assessment information for the Shaktoolik and Inglutalik river drainages indicate that king salmon escapements there are below average and will remain closed to sport fishing for king salmon and to the use of bait. In addition, all other freshwaters of southern Norton Sound that do not have inseason escapement information including the Koyuk, Ungalik, and Golsovia river drainages will remain closed and the use of bait is prohibited in these waters.

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.