

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-PS-W-01-18

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday, July 20, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, 2018, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the sport fish bag and possession limit for pink salmon to twenty (20) fish in the Northern Norton Sound, which includes all flowing waters draining into Norton Sound from Cape Darby to Cape Prince of Wales, and the Unalakleet River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area (c)(3)(A) and (c)(9)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2018:

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

(c)(3) in Northern Norton Sound, which is described as all waters draining into Norton Sound from Cape Darby to Cape Prince of Wales on the Seward Peninsula, except Salmon Lake, the bag and possession limit for

(A) pink salmon is 20 fish, with no size limit;

(c)(9) in the Unalakleet River drainage,

(C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 20 fish, of which only four fish, in combination, may be coho, chum, and sockeye salmon;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Brendan Scanlon

JUSTIFICATION:

Daily escapement counts of pink salmon at enumeration projects throughout Norton Sound are much higher than average and in drainages where there are escapement goals for pink salmon, all goals have been exceeded. In the Nome River, over 750,000 pink salmon have been counted as of July 17. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for pink salmon in the Nome River is 13,000 fish. Likewise, in the North River, a tributary of the Unalakeet River which has an SEG of 25,000 pink salmon, over 350,000 pink salmon have been counted as of July 17. Other nearby drainages, while not having escapement goals or enumeration projects, track similarly to the Nome and Unalakeet rivers and are showing large returns of pink salmon as well. Due to the high escapement of pink salmon in the Nome and Unalakeet river drainages as well as continued high returns of pink salmon in other drainages within Norton Sound, an increase in the bag and possession limit for pink salmon from 10 to 20 fish is warranted.

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.