

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-23-20

Issued at: Sitka, Thursday, July 29, 2020.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 31, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-KS-R-19-20, issued July 10, 2020, that established regional resident and nonresident king salmon bag and possession limits and nonresident harvest limits for the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery for the 2020 season. Emergency Orders 1-KS-C-13-20 (issued May 26, 2020) and 1-KS-E-18-20 (June 9, 2020) which established liberalized king salmon regulations for designated sport terminal hatchery areas in the vicinity of Juneau, Petersburg and Wrangell are also rescinded by this emergency order.

Since implementation of the current regulations, the Southeast Alaska sport king salmon fishery continues to be significantly below its treaty allocation in 2020 due to decreased nonresident effort due to COVID-19 interstate travel mandates and cancellations of large cruise ship operations. This emergency order establishes from July 31 – September 30, a resident bag limit of five king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a nonresident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; and a nonresident annual limit of 9 king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; This additional king salmon opportunity is estimated to increase sport king salmon treaty harvest without exceeding the sport fishery allocation.

REGULATION: Consistent with objectives within 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*, the provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (23) are added by this emergency order and become effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 31, 2020. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(22) king salmon:

(A) from July 31 — September 30;

- (i) resident bag and possession limit of five fish, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (ii) nonresident bag and possession limit of three fish, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (iii) nonresident annual limit of nine fish, 28 inches or greater in the length, a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

By delegation to:

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: Due to the unforeseen reduction in nonresident harvest caused by COVID-19 interstate travel mandates and cancellations of large cruise ship operations, without modification the 2020 sport harvest of treaty king salmon is estimated to be 22,000-26,000 fish approximately 12,000-16,000 fish below the sport fishery allocation of 37,900. Implementation of these less restrictive king salmon regulations is estimated to result in a 2020 sport harvest of approximately 32,000-36,000 treaty king salmon which is within the sport allocation of treaty king salmon.

The Southeast Alaska king salmon fishery will continue to be monitored inseason and management action will be taken if needed to keep the sport fishery within the sport allocation.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-19-20, issued July 10, 2020, is rescinded by this emergency order.

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-17-20 issued June 9, 2020 which established king salmon nonretention areas in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks remains in effect.

Emergency Order 1-KS-C-13-20 issued May 26, 2020; and Emergency Order 1-KS-E-18-20 issued June 9, 2020 which established designated sport terminal areas, in the Juneau and Petersburg/Wrangell areas to provide Alaska hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity while protecting wild Alaska king salmon, is rescinded.

Emergency order 1-KS-A-14-20 issued May 26, 2020; which established designated sport terminal areas in the Ketchikan area providing Alaska hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity while protecting wild Alaska king salmon remains in effect.

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.