

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-04-21

Issued at: Sitka, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-KS-R-24-20, issued September 28, 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. The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* stipulates the regional king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits, and any other management measures will be based upon the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE. The Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE for the 2021 season is 3.85, which, according to the plan (subsection (f)), prescribes that the bag limit would be one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; the nonresident king salmon total harvest limit would be three fish from January 1-June 30, two fish from July 1-July 7, and one fish from July 8-December 31. Any king salmon harvested during the earlier time periods would apply towards the later time period's nonresident king salmon total harvest limit. From October 1 through March 31, a resident sport angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon. The sport fishery is expected to be significantly under its allocation under these management prescriptions based on the reduction of king salmon sport fishing effort seen in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and expected reduced effort during the 2021 season. With anticipated reduced effort in 2021 the sport fishery will be managed for its allocation by implementing the less restrictive management prescriptions in subsection (d) of the management plan with this emergency order. Under these prescriptions, the resident bag limit will be three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; the nonresident angler bag limit will be one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length. The nonresident annual limit will be four king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length. In addition, a sport angler may use two rods from October through March.

REGULATION: Consistent with stipulations within 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*, the provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (20) are added by this emergency order and become effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2021. 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.

(20) king salmon:

(A) the resident bag and possession limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

- (B) the nonresident bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (C) the nonresident annual limit is four king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (D) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: The Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery is managed under the directives of the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055). This plan provides management prescriptions based upon the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE. The Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE for the 2021 season is 3.85 which equates to 37,900 king salmon allocated to the sport fishery. To address the implementation of the new treaty agreement which includes provisions to reduce the Alaska all-gear harvest ceiling the following year if the Alaska all-gear harvest ceiling is exceeded, the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery will be conservatively managed for a total king salmon treaty harvest of 37,120 fish. Salmon sport fishing effort in 2020 was down approximately 50% due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite multiple progressive inseason liberalizations of king salmon regulations throughout the 2020 season, the sport fishery was unable to harvest its allocation. For the 2021 season a 25% reduction in salmon sport effort is anticipated due to continued Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and public concerns. Given this anticipated reduction in effort, the sport fishery would be significantly below its allocation under management prescriptions outlined in subsection (f) of the plan, therefore the management prescriptions in subsection (d) of the plan are being implemented. Under these management prescriptions the sport fishery is expected to remain within its allocation but will be monitored inseason to determine if additional management action is needed.

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.