

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-3-98

Issued at Juneau, April 29, 1998

Effective 12:01 A.M.
Date: Monday, May 4, 1998

Expiration Date: Sunday, September 27 at
11:59 P.M. unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reopens all salt waters in the Southeast Alaska area, including Yakutat, to sport fishing for king and coho salmon and imposes restrictions on filleting and heading king and coho salmon taken by marine boat anglers in select areas in the Southeast and Yakutat areas. In the areas and times identified within this Emergency Order, marine boat anglers returning to specified ports will be prohibited from filleting, mutilating, or heading sport caught king and coho salmon until the fish have been brought to shore and offloaded unless the fish have been consumed or preserved onboard.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 47.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS (4) is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(1) 5 AAC 47.022 WATER	SEASON AND BAG LIMIT						SPECIAL PROVISIONS
	King Salmon	Other Salmon	Trout/Steelhead	Dolly Varden	Halibut/Lingcod	Other Fish/Shell fish	
(4) All SALT WATERS east of the longitude of Cape Suckling and north of the International Boundary at Dixon Entrance, not listed below.	1A	1D	1L, 1R	1I	3J, 4K	1S, 1T	

REGULATION:

5 AAC 47.030. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS – FINFISH (i) is added to read:

5 AAC 47.030. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS – FINFISH

- (i) Marine boat anglers possessing sport caught king and coho salmon and returning to any ports adjacent to the communities identified below, during the designated times, may not fillet, mutilate, or discard the head of these fish until the fish have been brought to shore and offloaded, unless they are preserved or have been consumed onboard:

Ketchikan: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Craig: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, September 13, 1998.

Sitka: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Juneau: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Petersburg: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, July 12, 1998

Wrangell: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, July 12, 1998

Haines: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 11, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, June 28, 1998

Yakutat: 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 4, 1998 through 11:59 P.M. Sunday, September 27, 1998

JUSTIFICATION:

The department conducts on-site creel sampling programs in Southeast and Yakutat areas in order to estimate the amount of sport fishing effort, harvest, and contribution of hatchery fish and other stocks in the fisheries. More anglers have been filleting, de-heading, and processing fish before returning to port, which makes it impossible for Fish and Game staff to recover the tagged heads of king and coho salmon, first identified by a missing adipose fin. The result is reduced ability to estimate the contribution of these stocks of fish. Therefore, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a regulation giving the department the authority to restrict these activities when and where creel sampling programs are in place. Anglers returning to these ports still have the ability to consume king and coho salmon onboard, as well as preserve these fish if they choose, before offloading. This regulation will be in effect as long as the local creel sampling programs are operating.