

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-17-98

Issued at Soldotna: July 23, 1998

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. July 24, 1998

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Dec. 31, 1998,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency  
order

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sockeye salmon sport bag/possession limit in the Kenai River **drainage** to three sockeye salmon. Fishing for sockeye salmon is restricted to the hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. This regulatory action is effective at 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 24, 1998.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022 (b) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

In the Kenai River drainage fishing for sockeye salmon (to include catch-and-release fishing) may only occur from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

In all areas of the Kenai River drainage open to sockeye salmon fishing, the bag and possession limit is three sockeye salmon.

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.360) directs the department to manage the Kenai River sockeye salmon resource for a sonar count of 550,000 to 850,000 sockeye salmon and a Biological Escapement Goal of 300,000 to 570,000. To date the sonar count is 208,000. Without a reduction in the inriver harvest potential, there is some question whether the sonar goal or Biological Escapement Goal will be realized. The recreational fishery is therefore being restricted as a necessary measure which is projected to ensure attaining the Biological Escapement Goal.