

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-33-98

Issued at: Issued at Anchorage, September 18, 1998

Effective Date: Effective: Date: 12:01 a.m.
September 19, 1998

Expiration Date: : December 31, 1998
Unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supercedes emergency order number 2-SS-6-30-98 by increasing the bag limit for coho salmon in all freshwater systems south of the Copper River Highway, including the Eyak River fly-fishing only area to 3 fish per day and 3 fish in possession, effective 12:01 AM, September 19. Bait will be allowed in those waters south of the Copper River Highway, except the Eyak River fly-fishing only area. In addition all waters of Clear Creek will be closed to all fishing. (This includes all access points from the headwaters to its confluence with the mainstem of the Copper River.)

All other restrictions from emergency order number 2-SS-6-30-98 will remain in effect. The bag and possession limit for coho salmon in all remaining waters of the Prince William Sound management area (excluding the area described above) is 1 per day and 1 in possession. All flowing waters upstream of the Copper River Highway remain closed to sport fishing for coho salmon. In addition, only **unbaited** artificial lures may be used in all flowing fresh waters of Prince William Sound (excluding the area described above). The hatchery-enhanced returns in Valdez, Whittier, Esther Island and Cordova, as described below, remain exempt from these restrictions.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 55.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS. is superseded to reduce the bag and possession limits for coho salmon only as follows. (1)-(14) The bag and possession limit for coho salmon in all waters of Prince William Sound as described in 5 AAC 55.005 (which includes the Copper River Delta) is 1 per day and 1 in possession. Except in those water south of the Copper River Highway and the Eyak River fly-fishing only area, the bag and possession limits for coho salmon is 3. All flowing waters upstream of the Copper River Highway are closed to sport fishing for coho salmon and Clear Creek is closed to all sport fishing. Hatchery enhanced runs as follows are not included in these restrictions: 1) the marine waters of Valdez Arm north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point, 2) the marine waters of Orca Inlet in a line from Shepard Pt. to Salmo Pt. south to Odiak Slough (including Fleming Spit), 3) the marine waters of Passage Canal west of a line due north of Decision Point., and 4) the marine waters of Well's Passage inside an area from Pt. Esther, to Pt. Culross, to Pt. Perry, to W. Bald Head Island to the mainland at the SW point of Esther Passage.

5 AAC 55.030. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS - FINFISH. The following provisions are added: (c) only unbaited artificial lures may be used in all flowing fresh waters in Prince William Sound as described in 5 AAC 55.005 (which includes the Copper River Delta), except bait may be used in flowing waters south of the Copper River Highway, excluding the Eyak River fly-fishing only area. The hatchery returns as described above are not included in this restriction.

JUSTIFICATION:

Recent aerial surveys by CFMD management staff indicate that coho salmon numbers in the Copper River Delta systems have increased with a count of 30,700 compared to a weekly anticipated escapement of 32,600. However, some systems still remain low and are not expected to reach escapement goals. This information justifies relaxing the recent restriction on some roadside streams. Effective 12:01 AM, September 19, all streams south of the Copper River Highway will return to normal bag and possession limits of 3 per day and 3 in possession. The Eyak River fly-fishing only area will open, however all waters of Clear Creek will be

closed to all fishing. The bait restriction in those waters south of the highway is also lifted. All waters north of the Copper River Highway will remain closed to coho salmon fishing to protect spawning areas.

The hatchery-enhanced returns in Valdez, Whittier, Esther Island and Cordova remain exempt from these restrictions.

Filename: 98pwscoho2.doc
Directory: C:\WINDOWS\TEMP
Template: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
Subject:
Author: Sport Fish
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 09/21/98 9:26 AM
Change Number: 2
Last Saved On: 09/21/98 9:26 AM
Last Saved By: Heather Peterson
Total Editing Time: 1 Minute
Last Printed On: 09/22/98 11:01 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 630 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 3,596 (approx.)