

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 2-KS-5-10-99

Issued at: Dillingham, June 30, 1999

Effective Date: 12:01 am Friday July 2, 1999

Expiration Date: 11:59 PM Friday, December 31, 1999
Unless superseded by subsequent Emergency Order

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order closes all sport fishing for king salmon in the Nushagak/Mulchatna River drainage. This Emergency Order supercedes E.O. 2-KS-5-09-99.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 67.022 therefore is amended to read:

5 AAC 67.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS. (a) This subsection contains codes for fishing seasons and for bag, possession, and size limits, and applicable special provisions, for all fresh waters of the Bristol Bay Area. 5 AAC 67.010 and 5 AAC 67.020 contain the code keys for the codes set out in this subsection.

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BRISTOL BAY AREA - FRESH WATER

(1) 5 AAC 67.022 WATER	SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS									SPECIAL PROVISIONS
	King Salmon	Other Salmon	Rainbow Trout	Arctic Char/ Dolly Varden	Arctic Grayling	Lake Trout	Northern Pike	Burbot	Other	
<p>(7) NUSHAGAK RIVER drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage and those waters otherwise specified in this subsection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NUSHAGAK RIVER drainage upstream from its confluence with Harris Creek.^{1,2} ● NUSHAGAK RIVER drainage from its confluence with Harris Creek downstream to its confluence with the Iowithla River, including the Harris Creek and Iowithla River drainages. ● NUSHAGAK RIVER drainage downstream from its confluence with the Iowithla River. ● KOKTULI RIVER drainage.³ ● KOKWOK RIVER drainage and all waters of the Nushagak River within a 1/4-mile radius of its confluence with the Nushagak River. ● NUYAKUK RIVER from the outlet of Tikchik Lake to an island located approximately 2 miles downstream from Nuyakuk Falls.³ ● NUYAKUK RIVER downstream from an island located approximately 2 miles downstream from Nuyakuk Falls to its confluence with the Nushagak River. 	Closed	1D	9U, 13W	9F, 13G	1I	1N	1Q	1J	1AB	<p>An emergency order issued under 5 AAC 06.368 could affect the methods and means, bag and possession limits, seasons, and area for coho salmon within the Nushagak River drainage upstream from the department sonar counter located near Portage Creek.</p> <p>¹ In that portion of the Nushagak River drainage from its confluence with the Chechitnok River downstream to its confluence with Harris Creek, rainbow trout may not be possessed or retained; all rainbow trout caught must be released immediately.</p> <p>² In that portion of the Nushagak River drainage from its confluence with the Chechitnok River downstream to its confluence with Harris Creek, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.</p> <p>³ Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.</p> <p>⁴ Closed to king salmon fishing year around; king salmon may not be taken, possessed, or retained.</p>
	Closed	1D	9U, 13W	9F, 13G	1I	1N	1Q	1J	1AB	
	Closed ⁴	1D	9U, 13W	9F, 13G	1I	1N	1Q	1J	1AB	
	Closed	1D	9U, 13W	9F, 13G	1I	1N	1Q	1J	1AB	
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<p>(7) NUSHAGAK RIVER drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage - CONTINUED.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MULCHATNA RIVER drainage, excluding waters specified in this subsection. ● MULCHATNA RIVER all flowing waters from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the Mulchatna River about 1 1/2 miles upstream from the Koktuli River outlet to the ADF&G regulatory marker located about 1 1/2 miles downstream from the Stuyahok River outlet.³ ● STUYAHOK RIVER drainage.³ ● TIKCHIK RIVER drainage.³ ● ALL OTHER WATERS in the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, not specified in this subsection. 	Closed	1D	9U, 13W	9F, 13G	1I	1N	1Q	1J	1AB	<p>An emergency order issued under 5 AAC 06.368 could affect the methods and means, bag and possession limits, seasons, and area for coho salmon fishing within the Nushagak River drainage upstream from the department sonar counter located near Portage Creek.</p> <p>¹ In that portion of the Nushagak River drainage from its confluence with the Chechitnok River downstream to its confluence with Harris Creek, rainbow trout may not be possessed or retained; all rainbow trout caught must be released immediately.</p> <p>² In that portion of the Nushagak River drainage from its confluence with the Chechitnok River downstream to its confluence with Harris Creek, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.</p> <p>³ Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.</p> <p>⁴ Closed to king salmon fishing year around; king salmon may not be taken, possessed, or retained.</p>
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Frank Rue
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Dan O. Dunaway
Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through June 29, only 16,800 king salmon have been estimated by the department's sonar at Portage Creek. Sport, subsistence, and commercial harvests are estimated to total 3,000 fish to date. Under historical run timing from 1980 to 1998, 59% of the run would have passed the sonar by June 29. Based on average run timing, and this year's catch and escapement, the department projects a total return of 33,000 king salmon. Based on late run timing within the ranges observed over the past 20 years, the department would project a return of only 37,000 king salmon.

The Nushagak Chinook Salmon Management Plan directs the department to close the sport fishery and restrict the inriver subsistence fishery when the department projects the inriver return will fall below 40,000 fish. Therefore the sport fishery must be closed drainage-wide to conserve king salmon.

DISTRIBUTION: Lt. Governor; Commissioner of Fish and Game; Office of Governor (Anchorage); Director, Sport Fish; Regional Supervisor, Sport Fish; Regional Supervisor, Commercial Fish; News Media, Radio, TV, and Newspapers; Department of Public Safety; Board of Fisheries Members; Sport Fish Area Offices; Commercial Fish Area Offices.