

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-20-99

Issued at Palmer August 16, 1999

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
Thursday August 19, 1999

Expiration Date: 12:00 midnight Friday
December 31, 1999 Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order eliminates the use of bait and reduces the daily bag limit of coho salmon from 3 per day to 1 per day in four Knik Arm drainage streams commencing 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 19, through midnight December 31, 1999. Bag and possession limits will remain unchanged and bait will continue to be allowed in all other Knik Arm drainage streams.

REGULATIONS:

5AAC 61.060. LITTLE SUSITNA COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN:

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(c) downstream of the Parks Highway the daily bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or more in length is three per day and only unbaited artificial lures are allowed from July 15th through August 5th.

5AAC 61.060. LITTLE SUSITNA COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN is amended to read:

(c) downstream of the Parks Highway the daily bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or more in length is one per day and only unbaited artificial lures are allowed from July 15th through December 31st.

REGULATIONS:

The provisions of 5AAC 61.022(c) (2)(C), (2)(D), (2)(H), and (2)(I) WATER, SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective.

In Cottonwood Creek, from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located 1 mile upstream from the Palmer Hayflats State Game Refuge access road, the daily bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or more in length is one fish per day and the use of bait is prohibited.

In Fish Creek drainage (Knik/Goose Bay Road) from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1/4 mile upstream from the Knik/Goose Bay road, the daily bag limit for salmon 16 inches or more in length is one fish per day and the use of bait is prohibited.

In the Little Susitna River, from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway Bridge, the daily bag limit for salmon 16 inches or more in length is one fish per day and the use of bait is prohibited.

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In Wasilla Creek, from its mouth upstream to the Alaska Railroad Bridge adjacent to the Parks Highway, including Rabbit Slough and Spring Creek, the daily bag limit for salmon 16 inches or more in length is one fish per day and the use of bait is prohibited.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dave Rutz
Dave Rutz
Assistant Area
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 1999 return of coho salmon to some Knik Arm Management Area waters of Northern Cook Inlet appears to be below average. Commercial and recreational catch rates have been very low. In the Knik Arm area, weirs are currently being operated on Cottonwood, Wasilla and Fish creeks and the Little Susitna River. Weir information for Fish, Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks to evaluate coho salmon run strength in-season indicates below average returns. Few fish have passed these weirs to date. For example in Fish and Cottonwood creeks only 542 and 267 coho salmon have passed the weirs to date, while last year by this date 984 and 1,080 had passed the weir respectively. Though a weir is in place on the Little Susitna River, due to its up-river location, well above the fishery, no in-season information is available; however, anecdotal information received from guides and anglers fishing on this system indicates a below average return. Given the poor return of coho salmon to waters of the Knik Arm area of Northern Cook Inlet, it is warranted to restrict recreational fishing activity at this time. If entry levels of coho salmon don't increase by the middle of next week as evaluated by weirs, further recreational fishing restrictions or fishery closures may be implemented.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518, (907) 267-2218.