

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No 2-KS-2-01-01

Issued at Anchorage, May 24, 2001

Effective Date: 11:00 P.M.
May 30, 2001

Expiration Date: July 13, 2001
Unless superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION:

The Ship Creek king salmon sport fishery is a direct result of hatchery enhancement. The Ship Creek Biological Escapement Goal is 250 fish. The remainder of the fish that escape the sport fishery are collected for brood stock used to further enhance Ship Creek and to stock landlocked lakes in Southcentral Alaska. Even though the minimum BEG for Ship Creek has been met annually, the Department has failed to obtain its total hatchery brood stock needs in five of the past six years. Furthermore, in three of the past six years, brood stock needs specific for Ship Creek were not met, which will result in fewer kings available for sport anglers in the near future. At this time, it is necessary to reduce the amount of time the creek is open to salmon fishing to assure escapement and brood stock requirements.

REGULATION:

Amendments are therefore made to regulations to read as follows:

5AAC 61.022(d)(2)(O) SHIP CREEK: WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

In waters open to salmon fishing, fishing is not allowed between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Frank Rue
Commissioner



Barry Stratton
Area Management Biologist

By delegation to:

JUSTIFICATION:

The Ship Creek king salmon fishery is a direct result of hatchery enhancement. Angler harvest has averaged about 3,800 kings the past five years, and only 450-500 fish have made it through the fishery to be available for broodstock. The Department has not achieved its total egg take goal in five of the past six years and its Ship Creek-specific egg take goal in three of the past six years. In order to sustain this hatchery-enhanced sport fishery, more fish are needed to achieve the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG)

of naturally-spawning fish (250), and hatchery egg take requirements for further Southcentral Alaska enhancement (500).

The midpoint of the escapement through the dam is typically June 21. By that date, about 1/2 of the escapement has been realized. In past years, ADF&G has aimed for 200-250 through the dam by June 21. In order to meet current enhancement needs and BEG, we now need 325-375 fish through the dam by June 21, an increase of 125-175 fish.

In order to fulfill our management plan, the sport fishery must be restricted at this time to reduce harvest potential. The most effective way to get more fish above the dam is to reduce the amount of time the creek is open. Nighttime closures have been proven to be an effective method to increase escapement levels in other Northern Cook Inlet streams, and also proved to be effective in Ship Creek in 2000. While we did not meet our egg take goals for Ship Creek in 2000, we were much closer than years past due to an increase in available fish.

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, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.