

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-01-02

Issued at Anchorage, May 15, 2002

Effective 11:00 p.m. Wednesday
Date: May 15, 2002

Expiration Date: July 13, 2002, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Ship Creek to all fishing May 15 – July 13 between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. downstream of the cable located 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant Dam.

REGULATION:

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. from May 15 through July 13.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dan Bosch
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

During their February 2002 meeting the Alaska Board of Fisheries passed a regulation that closed the lower reach of Ship Creek at night to all fishing. The intent of this regulation was to allow adequate numbers of king salmon to escape the intense sport fishery to meet egg take requirements. This new regulation has not been signed into law yet making it necessary to enact this order.

The Ship Creek king salmon fishery is a direct result of hatchery enhancement. Angler harvest has averaged about 4,000 kings in the past five years. Before night-time closures were enacted by Emergency Order in 2000 and 2001, only 450-500 adult kings were making it through the fishery. Excessive mortality of brood stock due, in part, to hooking wounds resulted in not meeting egg-take goals. During years of nighttime closures (2000 and 2001) sufficient numbers of adult kings escaped the sport fishery (550-650) and were available for brood stock.

In order to meet egg take requirements, the sport fishery must be restricted. The most effective way to achieve this is to reduce fishing time using a nighttime closure. Nighttime closures have proven to be an effective method to increase escapement levels in Ship Creek and other Cook Inlet streams.

This regulation has already been printed in the 2002 Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for Southcentral Alaska.

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.