

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-5-26-02

Issued at: Dillingham, Tuesday,  
August 13, 2002

Effective 12:01 a.m.,  
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., December 31,  
2002, unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for coho salmon in the Nushagak/Mulchatna River drainage effective at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 15, 2002. This closure prohibits catch and release fishing for coho salmon. All coho salmon caught must be immediately released.

### REGULATION

Consistent with 5 AAC 06.368 (d) NUSHAGAK RIVER COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.  
The following provisions are effective:

#### **5 AAC 06.368 NUSHAGAK RIVER COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN**

d)(2) the Nushagak River drainage is closed to sport fishing for coho salmon. Catch and release fishing for coho salmon is prohibited.

Frank Rue,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Jason E. Dye  
Assistant Area Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION

The Nushagak Coho Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 06.368) directs the department to close the sport fishery when the department projects the in-river return will fall below 60,000 fish by August 25. Through August 12, only 37,225 coho salmon have been enumerated by the department's sonar located at Portage Creek. Historically, 67% of the coho salmon run has passed the sonar by August 12. Based on average run timing and this year's passage to date, the department projects an in-river escapement of approximately 55,000 coho salmon. Therefore, it is warranted to close the Nushagak drainage sport fishery to conserve coho salmon.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.