

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-4-32-02

Issued at Kodiak, Alaska
Friday, September 13, 2002

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday,
September 16, 2002

Expiration Date: December 31, 2002,
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order extends the current salmon fishing closure which is in effect for streams flowing into Monashka and Chiniak bays. These streams are closed to salmon fishing upstream of the highway, with the exception of the Buskin River which is closed upstream of Bridge #1. This closure has been in effect since August 1 and will remain in effect until further notice.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 64.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KODIAK AREA is amended to read:

5 AAC 64.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KODIAK AREA

(b) (1) (A) All drainages on the Kodiak Road Zone from Monashka Creek to and including Chiniak Creek, but excluding the Buskin River and Kalsin Pond, upstream from the Chiniak Highway are closed to sport fishing for salmon from August 1 through December 31, 2002.

(b) (1) (B) Buskin River drainage upstream of Bridge #1 is closed to salmon fishing from August 1 through December 31, 2002

Frank Rue,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Len Schwarz,
Area Management . Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The coho salmon escapement at the Buskin River weir through Wednesday, September 11, was 2,400 fish. Based on this weir count, the department projects that the final season minimum weir count of 6,000 coho may not be achieved.

Extreme low water conditions usually delay coho salmon from entering streams. This has been the case with most Kodiak road system streams this year. Because not enough coho salmon have entered the rivers to ensure escapement goals will be met, the current upriver salmon fishing closure will be extended until December 31, 2002, or until weir counts project that minimum escapement goals will be achieved.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.