

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-34-02

Issued at Cordova, Monday,
September 16, 2002

Effective 12:01 a.m., Tuesday,
Date: September 17, 2002

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2002, unless superseded by subsequent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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for salmon 16 inches or longer (except for king salmon) in the freshwater drainages of the Copper River south of Haley Creek and the freshwaters of the Copper River Delta, including the freshwaters crossed by the Copper River Highway and the freshwaters of the Martin River drainage, excluding the Katalla and Bering river drainages, to 6 fish per day and 12 fish in possession, of which no more than 3 per day and three in possession may be pink, chum or sockeye salmon. The entire bag and possession limit may be coho salmon.

These regulatory changes become effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2002.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 55.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS. are amended to read:

5 AAC 55.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

(4) (B) Cordova: All freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek (Mile 42) downstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge, and excluding the Martin River. The bag and possession limit for salmon (other than king salmon) is 6 per day and 12 in possession, of which no more than 3 per day and 3 in possession may be a combination of pink, chum and sockeye salmon.

(4) (D) Copper River Delta Special Management Area for Trout: All freshwaters draining into the Gulf of Alaska south of Miles Glacier, east of the Copper River excluding the Clear Creek drainage and west of Cape Suckling, excluding the Katalla and Bering river drainages. The bag and possession limit for salmon (other than king salmon) is 6 per day and 12 in possession of which no more than 3 per day and 3 in possession may be a combination of pink, chum and sockeye salmon.

(4) (G) The Eyak River from a point 200 yards upstream from the Eyak Lake water control structure to a point 200 yards downstream from the bridge at the outlet of Eyak Lake. The daily bag and possession limit for salmon (other than king salmon) is 6 per day and 12 in possession of which no more than 3 per day and 3 in possession may be a combination of pink, chum and sockeye salmon.

Frank Rue,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matthew G. Miller,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Aerial surveys to enumerate coho salmon conducted on September 9, 2002, resulted in an estimate of 82,800 coho salmon in the index streams of the Copper River Delta. The escapement goal range for this system is 32,000- 67,000 coho salmon. It is projected at this time that the upper end of the escapement goal range will be exceeded by 25%. Therefore it is warranted to increase the coho salmon sport fishing bag and possession limit.

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.