

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-08-02

Issued at Soldotna: June 20, 2003

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., June 21, 2003

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. July 14, 2003

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the Russian River Sanctuary Area to fishing for sockeye salmon at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 21, 2003. The sockeye salmon bag and possession limit is three (3) fish.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023(d)(3)(D) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 56.023. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

5 AAC 56.023(d)(3)(D)

The Russian River Sanctuary Area, including waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located just downstream of the ferry crossing on the Kenai River to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing (including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth) and the Russian River from its mouth upstream 100 yards to ADF&G regulatory markers, is open to fishing from 12:01 a.m. June 21, 2003, through 11:59 p.m. July 14, 2002.

Kevin C. Duffy,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mark Gamblin,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Department staff have determined that the early run sockeye spawning escapement goal of 14,000 fish at the Lower Russian Lake weir will be achieved. As of June 20, over 10,000 sockeye salmon have been counted at the Russian River weir. Department staff estimate that 8,000-10,000 sockeye salmon are present in the Russian River Sanctuary, with further indications of sockeye salmon observed at the lower Kenai River sonar site. Based on these observations, Department staff conclude that the early run Russian River sockeye salmon escapement goal of 14,000-37,000 fish can now be projected. Therefore it is appropriate to liberalize the fishery by permitting anglers the opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon in the Russian River Sanctuary Area.

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.