

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-5-11-03

Issued at: Dillingham, Thursday, July
3, 2003

Effective 12:01 a.m.,
Date: Saturday, July 5, 2003

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., December 31,
2003, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

The escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kvichak River is not projected to achieve 2 million fish, which is the lower end of the biological escapement goal (BEG) this season. Only 496,000 sockeye salmon have passed the counting tower at Igiugig as of 6:00 am, July 3, 2003. The Kvichak River Drainage Sockeye Salmon Management Plan directs the department to restrict the Kvichak River recreational fishery if the escapement is projected to be fewer than two million sockeye salmon. This emergency order reduces the daily bag and possession limit for sockeye (red) salmon from five (5) fish per day to two (2) fish per day in all waters of the Kvichak River drainage upstream of its confluence with the Alagnak River (Branch River.)

In addition, this emergency order closes sport fishing for sockeye salmon in four areas of the Kvichak River drainage to eliminate the potential for conflict between sport and subsistence fisheries.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, METHODS AND MEANS IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA (e)(1) are superceded by this emergency order, and the provisions of 5 AAC 67.025. KVICHAK RIVER DRAINAGE SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (a)(2)(B) are implemented by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5AAC 67.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG; POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(e) In the Kvichak River drainage, excluding the Alagnak River drainage, the following special provisions apply:

(1) The bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is five fish, with no size limit, of which only two fish may be coho salmon and only two fish may be sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 67.025. KVICHAK RIVER DRAINAGE SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a)(2)(B) Waters in the Kvichak River drainage that are closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon by this emergency order:

- i) Alexey Creek and all waters within 150 yards of its confluence with Newhalen River;

- ii) The waters of Sixmile Lake and one-quarter mile downstream of Sixmile Lake in the Newhalen River and the lower one-quarter mile of the Tazimina River;
- iii) All waters within one-half-mile of the confluence of Gibraltar River with Lake Iliamna; and
- iv) The waters of Kvichak River between ADF&G regulatory markers posted adjacent to the community of Igiugig.

Kevin C. Duffy,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jason Dye,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

These restrictions are made in accordance with 5 AAC 67.025, KVICHAK RIVER DRAINAGE SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN as adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in January 2001.

The escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kvichak River is not projected to exceed 2 million fish, which is the lower end of the biological escapement goal (BEG). Only 496,000 sockeye salmon have passed the counting tower at Igiugig as of 6:00 am, July 3, 2003. To be in compliance with the Kvichak River Drainage Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, a restriction to the sport fishery is required if the escapement is projected be fewer than 2.0 million fish. The four areas closed to sport fishing for sockeye were established within the plan to eliminate the potential for conflict between sport and subsistence fisheries.

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.