

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-C-05-04

Issued at Petersburg, Friday, May
28, 2004

Effective 12:01 A.M.
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Saturday,
July 31, 2004 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal salt waters of Wrangell Narrows and the fresh waters of Blind Slough, near Petersburg, to harvest surplus king salmon returning to Crystal Lake Hatchery. From June 1 through July 31, the bag and possession limit is three king salmon 28 inches or more in length, and three king salmon less than 28 inches in length. King salmon caught by nonresident anglers during this period in the terminal salt waters of Wrangell Narrows and the fresh waters of Blind Slough do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan, and with 5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, the following provisions are effective from June 1, 2004 through July 31, 2004:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity, ...

(1) In the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56° 46' N. latitude and east of the longitude of the northern tip of Woewodski Island,

(a) The bag and possession limit is three king salmon 28 inches or more in length, and three king salmon less than 28 inches in length; and,

(b) King salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit established by emergency order 1-01-04 .

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in Blind Slough, upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point,

(C) The bag and possession limit is three king salmon 28 inches or more in length, and three king salmon less than 28 inches in length; and,

(D) King salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit established by emergency order 1-01-04 .

JUSTIFICATION:

The sport fishery for hatchery produced king salmon in terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows and fresh waters of Blind Slough is managed under the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381) and the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.055). The Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381) distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery chinook returns among sport and commercial troll fisheries while protecting some of the return for use as hatchery brood stock. When the projected king salmon return to the hatchery is greater than 4,000 fish, the Wrangell Narrow-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381) authorizes the department to increase the daily bag limit to more than two king salmon 28 inches or larger, and more than two king salmon less than 28 inches in length from June 1 through July 31. In 2004, the projected return of king salmon to the Crystal Lake Hatchery is expected to exceed 4,400 fish. Therefore, the department is increasing the king salmon bag and possession limits within the boundaries of the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area.

The Southeast King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.055) authorizes the department to repeal the nonresident angler annual limit provisions in hatchery terminal harvest areas.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270 and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley, P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833, (907) 772-3801.

Kevin C. Duffy
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Douglas Fleming
Petersburg/Wrangell Area
Management Biologist