

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-07-04

Issued at: Fairbanks Wednesday,
July 14, 2004

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Thursday, July 15, 2004

Expiration Date: December 31, 2004
Unless superseded by subsequent
Emergency Order.

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order increases the sport fishery bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length to three (3). The areas affected by this emergency order are all waters of the Chena and Salcha Rivers open to salmon fishing, and in the Tanana River within a 1/2 mile radius of the mouths of the Chena and Salcha Rivers. This Emergency Order is effective 12:01 A.M., Thursday, July 15, 2004.

In the remainder of the Tanana River drainage, king salmon bag and possession limits are unchanged.

REGULATION:

The provisions contained in 5 AAC 70.022(d)(1)(A) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

In all waters of the Chena and Salcha rivers open to salmon fishing, and in the Tanana River within a 1/2 mile radius of the mouths of the Chena and Salcha rivers, the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is 3 fish.

All other sport fishing bag and possession limits remain unchanged.

Kevin C. Duffy
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____
Mike Doxey
Lower Tanana River Drainage
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The inseason data collected from assessments during June and early July in the Lower Yukon River indicated that the king salmon run is stronger than expected.

Recent assessments of the Tanana River component of the Yukon River king salmon run indicate considerable run strength. As a consequence, subsistence and personal use fishing are proceeding on the normal schedule, and commercial fishing is being allowed.

Cumulative king salmon escapements as of 8 AM Wednesday, July 14, were 5,667 for the Chena River and 6,422 for the Salcha River. Escapements in the Salcha River and Chena Rivers were within 100 fish of exceeding the biological escapement goal (BEG) upper boundaries of 6,500 and 5,700 respectively. Both BEGs will be exceeded by the time this Emergency Order becomes effective.

Projected escapements based on current run strength indicate that the king salmon stocks in the Chena and Salcha rivers can support an increased sport harvest during the remainder of the run.

This Emergency Order is issued under authority of 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A).

DISTRIBUTION:

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner - Department of Fish and Game; Director - Division of Sport Fish; HQ - Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors/Offices (Juneau - Region I, Anchorage - Region II, Fairbanks - Region III - Regional Supervisor and Sport Fish Area Biologists, Nancy Greiner) - Division of Sport Fish; Director - Division of Commercial Fisheries; Regional Supervisors/Offices - Division of Commercial Fisheries (Anchorage - Region II, III; Fairbanks - Region III Com Fish Staff); Subsistence Division - Regional Supervisor, Fairbanks; Board of Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Protection (AST) Fairbanks - Detachment Commander/Staff, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee Chairman (Mike Tinker); Fairbanks Area newspapers, radio and television stations.