

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1- 24-05

Issued at Soldotna, July 19, 2005

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2005, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag limit for salmon 16" or longer, other than king salmon, from three (3) per day and three in possession to six (6) per day and six in possession in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing, except in the Russian River and the Kenai River "fly-fishing-only waters" at the confluence of the Russian River, including that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing downstream to the power line. No more than two salmon 16" or longer per day and in possession may be coho salmon. This emergency order is effective at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 20, 2005.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023(a)(3)(A)(iii) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 20, 2005:

5 AAC 56.023 SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE.

(a)(3) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length as follows:

(iii) bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is six fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan 5 ACC 21.360 (h)(2) stipulates that the department may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit to six sockeye salmon when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds two million salmon. While an in-season projection of Kenai sockeye salmon has not been made at this time, based upon commercial harvest and in-river passage estimates, there is no indication that 2005 Kenai sockeye salmon run is below 2.0 million fish.

Through July 18, the Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest is over 2.2 million sockeye salmon and over 428,000 sockeye salmon have passed the Kenai River sonar at River Mile 19 through July 18; almost 190,000 of which have passed in the last five days. The lower end of the optimal escapement goal (500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved.

Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than kings, to six per day and in possession in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing, except in the Russian River and Upper Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters,” which include that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing downstream to the power line.

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.