

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-28-05

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, August 19, 2005

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Sunday, August 21, 2005

Expiration Date: 8:00 p.m., Monday,
September 5, 2005, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the season for sport fishing for sockeye salmon in a portion of the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only” area. This emergency order applies to the waters of the Kenai River from the Russian River ferry crossing downstream to the power line crossing over the Kenai River. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 21, 2005 through 8:00 p.m. Monday, September 5, 2005.

The bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon 16” or greater in length are increased to six fish. Although described as a “fly-fishing-only” area, anglers may use unbaited artificial lures with only one single hook, with hook gap 3/8 inch or less in this area beginning on August 21.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023 SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE. (d)(1)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

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

(d)(1)(F) from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 21, 2005 through 8:00 p.m. Monday, September 5, 2005, the waters of the Kenai River near the confluence of the Russian River, from the powerline crossing on the Kenai River upstream to the Ferry Crossing, are open to sport fishing for sockeye salmon; bag and possession limit of six sockeye salmon 16” or greater in length;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

A total of 1,323,218 sockeye salmon have passed the sonar station on the Kenai River through midnight, August 17. The upper end of the Kenai River optimal escapement goal of 500,000 - 1,000,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded. A total of 286,866 sockeye salmon have passed the sonar station on the Kenai River since August 10. These large passage rates indicate a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon may be available for anglers sport fishing in the Kenai River "fly-fishing-only area" after the normal sockeye salmon sport fishing closure date for this area of August 20. Additional opportunity to sportfish for sockeye salmon in this area should not detrimentally impact the Russian River sockeye salmon late run as the waters of the Russian River, the Russian River Sanctuary and surrounding waters will remain closed to fishing for sockeye salmon. A total of 36,357 late run sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir through midnight August 17. The lower end of the Russian River late run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal of 30,000 – 110,000 fish has been met and will likely not be exceeded.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.