

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-5-02-06

Issued at: Dillingham, Tuesday, March
7, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., December 31,
2006, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

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 the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of two million sockeye (red) salmon. The preseason forecast is for 1.9 million sockeye salmon, and is the lowest since the 2002 forecast of 1.8 million. Therefore, the 2006 escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kvichak River is not projected to achieve the lower end of the BEG. This emergency order reduces the daily bag and possession limit for sockeye 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 (also called the 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, AND METHODS AND MEANS IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA (e) (1) and the provisions of 5 AAC 67.025. KVICHAK RIVER DRAINAGE SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (a) (2) (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 67.022. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA

(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) The following waters of the Kvichak River drainage are closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon:

- i) Alexey Creek and all waters within 150 yards of its confluence with the 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 the Gibraltar River with Lake Iliamna; and
- iv) The waters of the Kvichak River adjacent to the community of Igiugig as posted between ADF&G regulatory markers.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Craig Schwanke
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 this season. The 2006 preseason forecast of 1.9 million sockeye salmon is the lowest since the 2002 forecast of 1.8 million and is below the lower end of the BEG. 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.