

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-7-23-06

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, July 5, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 6, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 2-RS-7-09-06. Effective 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 6, 2006, waters of the English Bay River drainage downstream of the outlet of Lower English Bay Lake and waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict are open to sport fishing for sockeye salmon.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order 2-RS-7-09-06 is rescinded.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon sport fishing in waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict and in the English Bay River drainage, in Lower Cook Inlet, was closed beginning May 31 in concert with subsistence and commercial fishery closures, to protect sockeye salmon returning to the English Bay River drainage. The preseason forecast called for a weak run to this system in 2006, insufficient to achieve the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 6,000 – 13,500 fish. However, a cumulative weir count of 6,800 sockeye salmon has escaped into the English Bay River drainage, to date, achieving the low end of the SEG range. Although the recent historical run timing curve for English Bay River drainage sockeye salmon suggests that the return is approaching the approximate halfway point, the run is believed to be slightly later than normal this season, indicating that significant numbers of fish should still be bound for this system in the coming days. As a result, sport fishing for sockeye salmon in the Port Graham Subdistrict and English Bay River drainage, downstream from the outlet of Lower English Bay Lake, can be safely reopened on July 6, without jeopardizing biological escapement requirements. Sockeye escapement will continue to be monitored at the English Bay River weir for the remainder of the run.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-RS-7-09-06, which closed all waters of the English Bay River drainage and Port Graham Subdistrict to sport fishing for sockeye salmon from 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2006 until further notice, is rescinded.

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.