

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-42-06

Issued at Palmer, August 16, 2006

Effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday  
Date: August 19, 2006

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2006, unless superseded by subsequent  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

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order opens those portions of Cottonwood Creek that are open to fishing for salmon (other than kings) for twenty-four hour periods, while keeping the Saturday and Sunday, weekend-only restriction. In addition, this emergency order increases the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to three fish.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.022 (k)(4)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 19, 2006:

### **5 AAC 61.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA-WEST COOK INLET AREA**

(k)(4) in the Cottonwood Creek drainage,

(A) from June 15-April 14, from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located one mile upstream from the Palmer Hayflats State Game Refuge access road, sport fishing is allowed only from 12:01 a.m. Saturday to 11:59 p.m. Sunday. The daily bag and possession limit for salmon 16 inches or longer (other than king salmon) is three fish, of which all three may be coho salmon.

McKie Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Assistant Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Coho salmon escapements into Cottonwood Creek are significantly correlated to escapements in the Little Susitna River. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for Little Susitna coho salmon is 10,100-17,700, as measured by a weir upstream of the sport fishery. As of August 15, 2006, 2,845 coho salmon had passed through the Little Susitna weir. Based on these weir counts, the Department is projecting a

total escapement of 38,865 coho salmon, well above the upper limit of the SEG. Since Cottonwood Creek escapements closely mirror Little Susitna escapements, it is therefore justified to extend the fishing day on Cottonwood from 12 to 24 hours on Saturdays and Sundays and to increase the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to three fish. It is not anticipated that the increased sport harvest as a result of this emergency order will adversely affect sustainable yield of this stock.

**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.