

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-44-06

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2006, unless superseded by subsequent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 waters of Wasilla 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The provisions of 5 AAC 61.022 (k)(12)(D) are superseded by this emergency order.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)(12) the Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough,

(D) from June 15-April 14, downstream of the Alaska Railroad Bridge is open to sport fishing for salmon, except king salmon, 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:

Sam Ivey,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Coho salmon escapements into Wasilla 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 have passed through the 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 Wasilla Creek coho

escapements closely mirror Little Susitna coho escapements, it is therefore justified to extend the fishing day on Wasilla Creek 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 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.