

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-16-06

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, June 23, 2006

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Sunday, June 25, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 14, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the daily bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, from three (3) per day, three (3) in possession to four (4) per day, four (4) in possession in the Russian/Kenai River "fly-fishing-only area". This increased daily bag and possession limit applies to that area of the Kenai River from the power-line crossing upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls. This emergency order is effective from 6:00 a.m., Sunday, June 25, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 14, 2006.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023 SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE. (d)(3)(A) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

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

(d)(3) (A) in the combined areas of the Russian River from its mouth upstream to ADF&G markers approximately 600 yards downstream of the Russian River falls; and in the Russian River sanctuary area; and in that portion of the Kenai River upstream from the power-line crossing to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing (including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth), the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four (4) fish per day, and four (4) in possession, of which only one per day and in possession may be a coho salmon;

McKie Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Larry E. Marsh,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

A total of 18,263 early run sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir to date, with approximately 26% of the early run complete. Based on average run timing, the escapement is currently projected to significantly exceed the escapement goal range of 14,000 to 37,000 fish. Escapement rates through the weir and reports that sockeye salmon are present in the lower Kenai River downstream of Skilak Lake support the projection that the early run Russian River sockeye salmon upper escapement goal of 37,000 will be exceeded. Emergency order 2-RS-1-08-06 issued on June 21, 2006, increased the harvest potential by opening the Russian River sanctuary area to fishing for sockeye salmon. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003. EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY (2) (A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the escapement goal. Therefore, it is warranted to provide for an increase in bag and possession limit in the Russian River early run sockeye salmon fishery to harvest fish in excess of the escapement goal range.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: The following emergency order relating to opening the Russian River sanctuary area to fishing for sockeye salmon remains in effect: 2-RS-1-08-06.

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.