

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-27-06

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sockeye salmon bag and possession limit to one per day and one in possession in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing except in the Russian River and the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River, including that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing downstream to the power line. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 31, 2006.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA. (a)(3)(A)(iii) and (a)(3)(B) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 31, 2006:

5 AAC 56.023 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA

(a)(3) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) bag and possession limit in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing except in the Russian River and the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River is three fish in combination, of which no more than one may be sockeye salmon and no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition; the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish; in that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing downstream to the power line the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon passage estimates as measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is approximately 82,396 through July 18. Present escapement rates of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River, coupled with the run strength assessment of the return of this stock, indicates that insufficient numbers of sockeye salmon will reach the Kenai River to provide for the optimum spawning escapement without greatly reduced fishery exploitation. The Cook Inlet commercial fishery has been restricted and the Kenai River personal use fishery has been closed to conserve Kenai River sockeye salmon. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003, EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY (1)(A), the department is authorized to decrease sport fishing bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to be less than the lower end of the escapement goal range.

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.