

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-38-06

Issued at Soldotna: Thursday, August 3, 2006

Effective Date: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 3, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order liberalizes the bag and possession limit of salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, to six fish per day and in possession, of which no more than two may be coho salmon, in the portion of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing **below** the ADFG regulatory markers posted at the River Mile 19 ADFG sockeye salmon sonar site. The daily bag and possession limit for the remainder of the Kenai River drainage will remain at three fish per day, of which no more than two may be coho salmon. This emergency order is effective beginning at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 3, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 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 (a)(3)(A)(iii) is superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 3, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 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 the Kenai River below the ADFG regulatory markers posted at River Mile 19 (next to the ADFG sockeye sonar station), is six fish in combination, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition; the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish; the bag and possession limit in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing above the ADFG regulatory marker posted at River Mile 19 (next to the ADFG sockeye sonar station) is three fish in combination, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition; the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sockeye salmon passage estimates as measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is approximately 748,773 fish through August 2. The inriver run goal for the 2006 season is 650,000 – 850,000 sockeye salmon. The department is projecting that the upper end of the inriver goal of 850,000 sockeye salmon will be exceeded if all fishery user groups targeting Kenai River bound sockeye salmon below the sonar are not liberalized. Since the upper end of the goal is projected to be exceeded, the sockeye salmon personal use dip net fishery will be reopened, the sport fishery daily bag and possession limits below the River Mile 19 sonar site are increased, and the commercial fisheries in Cook Inlet will be liberalized in unison in an attempt to achieve to the inriver run goal.

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.