

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-01-06

Issued at: Fairbanks, July 7, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 P.M. Saturday July 8, 2006

Expiration Date: August 15, 2006, unless  
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order prohibits the retention of king salmon in all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages effective 12:01 P.M., Saturday July 8, 2006, and prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in these rivers.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. SEASONS AND BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS FOR THE NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (c)(9)(A and B) are superseded by this Emergency Order and the provisions of 5 AAC 70.030. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS - FINFISH (f) are added. Under this Emergency Order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 70.011. SEASONS AND BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS FOR THE NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA.

(c)(9)(A and B) In all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages, effective 12:01 PM Saturday July 8, 2006 king salmon may not be retained or possessed.

5 AAC 70.030 METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS – FINFISH.

(f) In the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet rivers, the use of bait is prohibited.

McKie Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Taube  
Management Coordinator

### JUSTIFICATION:

Escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River are below historic averages. As of July 5<sup>th</sup> only 294 king salmon had passed the counting tower. From 2001 – 2005 an average of 399 king salmon had passed the counting tower by this date. During this time period the escapement goal of 1,200 – 2,400 king salmon was not met in two of the five years (2004 and 2005) when escapement past the tower was substantially higher than 2006. Although it is still early in the run, it appears that the escapement goal for king salmon will not be reached in 2006.

The Department does not have a stock assessment project in the Shaktoolik River, but the king salmon run generally cycles in accordance with Unalakleet stocks. Unalakleet River test fishery indices are also below historic averages for this date. The elimination of sport harvests of king salmon in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik rivers will provide protection for returning fish. The prohibition of bait while sport fishing is in accordance with provisions set forth in 5 AAC 75.003 (1)(A). This action should minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species.

The Department will continue to evaluate in-season run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met. If in-season stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement goal in the Unalakleet River will be met, restrictions will be relaxed.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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List is available at ADF&G, Sport Fish Division, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701.