

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-7-11-07

Issued at: Homer, Tuesday, May 29, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 31, 2007

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2007, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency orders closes all waters of the English Bay River drainage and Port Graham Subdistrict to sport fishing for sockeye salmon from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 31, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (a)(7)(A) are superceded by this emergency order and the provisions of 5 AAC 58.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COOK INLET – RESURRECTION BAY SALTWATER AREA (b)(2)(E) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 31, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2007:

5 AAC 56.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA

(a)(7) English Bay River drainage:

(A) The English Bay River from its mouth, including the lagoon, upstream to Lower English Bay Lake, from May 31 – July 31, is fly-fishing-only water; and is closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed.

5 AAC 58.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COOK INLET – RESURRECTION BAY SALTWATER AREA

(b)(2)(E) The Port Graham Subdistrict, including all waters east of the longitude of Point Bede at 151° 59.40 and south of the latitude of Point Pogibshi at 59° 25.47, is closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed.

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2007 preseason forecast for sockeye salmon returning to the English Bay lakes in the Port Graham Subdistrict of the Southern District is 3,200 fish. This is less than the lower end of the established sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 6,000 – 13,500 for this system. As a result, all returning fish will likely be required for spawning escapement, and no harvestable surplus is expected. Based on traditional run timing for this stock, beginning in late May, closure of fisheries targeting these fish in area waters is prudent to protect them for escapement purposes. Therefore, all waters of Port Graham Subdistrict and the English Bay drainage will be closed to both subsistence and sport fishing beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 31, 2007; additionally, these waters will not open to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing at the beginning of June as set forth in regulation. Escapement at the English Bay River weir will be monitored to assess run strength, but reopening of these fisheries is unlikely unless the actual sockeye return is considerably stronger than projected and escapement requirements are met or can be projected to be met.

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.