

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-7-18-07

Issued at: Homer, Monday, June 25, 2007

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Tuesday June 26, 2007

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 2-RS-7-11-07, issued May 29, 2007. Effective at 6:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 26, 2007, all waters of the English Bay River drainage and Port Graham Subdistrict are open to sport fishing for sockeye salmon.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order 2-RS-7-11-07 is rescinded.

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol M. Kerkvliet,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon sport fishing in the waters of English Bay River drainage and in the Port Graham subdistrict of Lower Cook Inlet was closed May 29, in concert with subsistence fisheries closures, to protect sockeye salmon returning to the English Bay River drainage. The preseason forecast for sockeye salmon called for a weak run to this system in 2007, insufficient to achieve the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 6,000 – 13,500 fish. However, a cumulative weir count of approximately 4,500 sockeye salmon has escaped to the English Bay River drainage to date. The recent historical run timing curve of the sockeye salmon escapement for English Bay lakes indicates the return is approaching the approximate halfway point, thus a significant number of fish should still be bound for this system in the coming days. Given the recent counts, and historical run timing information, the Department now projects a sockeye salmon escapement within the SEG range will be achieved at English Bay Lakes. As a result, sport fishing for sockeye salmon in the all waters of Port Graham Subdistrict and the English Bay drainage can be safely reopened without jeopardizing the biological escapement requirements. Sockeye escapement will continue to be monitored at the English Bay River weir for the remainder of the run.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-RS-7-11-07, which closed 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.

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.