

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-PS-6-27-07

Issued at: Cordova, Thursday, July 5, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 6, 2007

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2007, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order increases the pink salmon bag and possession limits in the salt waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point (Valdez Narrows) to 12 fish per day and 24 in possession. Fresh water salmon closures remain in effect for Port Valdez. These regulatory changes become effective at 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 6, 2007.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA (1)(B)(ii) are superseded by this Emergency Order. Under this Emergency Order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 6, 2007:

5 AAC 55.023. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA.

(1)(B) within the following terminal harvest areas, the bag limit is six fish; and the possession limit is 12 fish:

(ii) VALDEZ VICINITY: the salt waters north of a line from Point Freemantle to Rocky Point, excluding Jack Bay, Sawmill Bay, and Galena Bay; except that in all salt waters north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is 12 fish per day and 24 in possession.

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brian Hall Marston,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Pink salmon returns to the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) Solomon Gulch hatchery are far above anticipated. Pink salmon cost recovery efforts for this hatchery are approximately 65% complete, while, based on a 10-year average run timing, the return is only 33% complete. As of July 5, the commercial fishing periods in the Eastern District have harvested 4,000,000 pink salmon. Aerial surveys of the Eastern District yielded counts for chum and pink salmon at anticipated levels for this date, therefore, no wild stock concerns will occur from the increased bag limits, and it is warranted

to increase the pink salmon bag and possession limits in the Port Valdez marine waters for these surplus hatchery fish.

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.