

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-30-07

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 26, 2007

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December 31, 2007, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for salmon 16" or longer, other than king salmon, from three (3) per day, three (3) in possession to six (6) per day, six (6) in possession in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing, except in the Russian River and the Kenai River "fly-fishing-only waters" at the confluence of the Russian River, including that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing downstream to the power line. No more than two salmon 16" or longer per day and in possession may be coho salmon. This emergency order is effective at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 26, 2007.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120 GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA (4)(A)(iii) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 26, 2007 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2007.

5 AAC 57.120 GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA.

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is six fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 21.360 (h)(2) stipulates that the department may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit to six sockeye salmon when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds 2,000,000 salmon.

As of July 25, 2007, the Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest of Kenai River sockeye salmon is approximately 1,600,000 fish and over 300,000 sockeye salmon have passed the Kenai River sonar at River Mile 19 through July 24. ADF&G inseason assessments indicate the late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon run will exceed 2,000,000 fish and the lower end of the optimal escapement goal (500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, to six per day and in possession, of which no more than two may be coho salmon.

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.