

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-01-07

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday July 5, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Friday July 6, 2007

Expiration Date: August 15, 2007, 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superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 A.M., Friday July 6, 2007, and prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in these rivers.

### REGULATION:

In accordance with 5 AAC 04.395. KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MARINE WATERS OF SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6 OF THE NORTON SOUND DISTRICT AND THE UNALAKLEET RIVER 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 SEASONS AND BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS FOR THE NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (c)(9)(A and B) are superseded by this Emergency Order and the provisions of 5 AAC 70.030.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 A.M. Friday July 6, 2007 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.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

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

Brendan Scanlon  
Northwest Area Management Biologist

**July 5, 2007**

JUSTIFICATION:

Escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River are below historic averages. As of July 4th only 186 king salmon had passed the counting tower. From 2002 – 2006 an average of 430 king salmon had passed the counting tower by this date. According to the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan, when the projected escapement is below the lower end of the escapement goal, all fishing will be closed. Although it is still early in the run, it appears that the escapement goal for king salmon will not be reached in 2007. This action is in alignment with the management plan.

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:

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner, Governor's Fisheries Policy Advisor, Department of Fish and Game; Director, Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors, Division of Sport and Commercial Fisheries; Members of Board of Fisheries; Director, Fish and Wildlife Protection; Detachment Commander and Area Officer, Board of Fisheries Members; Local Fish and Game Advisory Chairman; AYK Sport Fish Area Biologists, Division of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries; Juneau, Region I; Anchorage, Region II; Fairbanks, Region III; and selected area newspapers, and radio stations.

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