

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-F-08-08.

Issued at Haines, Thursday April 30, 2008.

Effective 12:01 A.M. Monday,
Date: May 5, 2008.

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Monday, June
30, 2008 unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the waters of Chilkat Inlet north of the ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point May 5 through June 30.

REGULATION: Consistent with stipulations within Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 33.384, the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021 (c)(4) are added by this emergency order and become effective at 12:01 A.M. Monday, May 5, 2008.

5 AAC 47.021 Special provisions for seasons and bag, possession, and size limits, methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(c) In the Haines/Skagway vicinity:

(4) Chilkat Inlet north of the ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point, the retention of king salmon is prohibited from May 5 through June 30.

By delegation to:

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: The king salmon sport fishery in Chilkat Inlet is managed under the directives of the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.384). This plan prescribes management measures to be implemented by the department for the king salmon sport fishery based upon the preseason projected inriver abundance of Chilkat king salmon, in-season fisheries performance, and inriver stock assessment programs. Catch per unit effort data from the Haines area creel survey program provides fisheries performance data after the majority of the sport harvest in Chilkat Inlet has occurred, which is too late for effective in-season management of king salmon fisheries. Catch per unit effort data from department drift gillnet and fish wheel stock assessment projects in the lower Chilkat River

provides in-season run strength assessment, but too late for effective in-season management of king salmon fisheries.

Based on Chilkat River king salmon run age composition data, sibling survival rates in the most recent four years (2004-2007), and average exploitation rates, the 2008 projected inriver run is 1,350 large fish (three ocean age and older), which is below the lower end of the inriver abundance goal range (1,850 to 3,600 large fish) for the Chilkat River. At this projected abundance level, the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Management Plan prescribes non-retention of sport caught king salmon in Chilkat Inlet north of Seduction Point to sport fishing through June 30. This management action is expected to reduce the sport fishing harvest of large mature Chilkat River king salmon by approximately 175 fish.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.