

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 01-KS-C-18-08

Issued at Petersburg, July 2, 2008

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Friday, July 4, 2008

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
July 31, 2008 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 01-KS-C-12-08, issued on May 30, 2008. This emergency order closes Blind Slough near Petersburg to fishing, and, restricts the current bag limits in the Wrangell Narrows Terminal Harvest Area to reduce the harvest of king salmon needed for brood stock at Crystal Lake Hatchery. The department is closing the freshwater areas of Blind Slough upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point to all sport fishing. Furthermore, the department is reducing the current bag limits for king salmon within that portion of the THA located in the Wrangell Narrows. These closure and bag limit reductions will be rescinded if king salmon escapement to the hatchery is sufficient to meet brood stock needs.

REGULATION:

Consistent with stipulations within 5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan and 5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, the provisions in 5 AAC 47.021(h)(8) are added, and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(h)(1) are superseded, and are effective from 12:01 a.m., July 4, 2008 through 11:59 p.m., July 31, 2008:

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

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity, ...

(8) In the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island (56° 36' N and 132° 59' W) and south of 56° 46' N. latitude,

- (a) The bag and possession limit is two king salmon, no size limit; and,
- (b) King salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

- (1) all fresh waters of Blind Slough, upstream from a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point are closed to fishing from July 4 through July 31, 2008.

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Douglas F. Fleming
Petersburg/Wrangell Area
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Current monitoring of sport, commercial, and escapement for the 2008 return to Crystal Lake hatchery have indicated weakness in the 2008 king salmon return. In an aerial survey conducted earlier in the week, approximately 100 king salmon were observed throughout all areas within Blind Slough. The brood stock goal (500 females/ 500 males) is unlikely to be achieved with the current fishery regulations with a weaker return. Closure of the fishery within the freshwater areas will better assure that fish entering Blind Slough may survive to be useable as brood stock. A marked reduction in the bag limit for Wrangell Narrows is also being sought to help achieve the brood stock goal given current observed weakness in the return. This emergency order is necessary to provide the maximum number of king salmon for hatchery brood stock needs.

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 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270 and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley, P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833, (907) 772-5231.