

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-13-08

Issued at Soldotna: Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Effective Date: 8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 14, 2008, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the Russian River Sanctuary Area to fishing for sockeye salmon at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA (1) (D) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008 through 11:59 p.m., Monday July 14, 2008.

5 AAC 57.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA.

(1)(D) from JULY 15 – MAY 1, The Russian River Sanctuary, including waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located just downstream of the ferry crossing on the Kenai River to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing (including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth) and the Russian River from its mouth upstream 100 yards to ADF&G regulatory markers is open to sport fishing from 8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 14, 2008.

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The department has determined that the early run sockeye salmon spawning escapement goal of 14,000-37,000 fish at the Lower Russian Lake weir will be achieved. As of June 24 the count of the sockeye salmon escapement at the weir is 10,223. At this time, the projected escapement is approximately 34,000 early run Russian River sockeye salmon. Department staff estimate that a minimum of approximately 1,000 sockeye salmon are present in the Russian River from the weir extending downstream through the Russian River falls to the closed fishing boundary above the recreational

fishery. In addition, approximately 3,000 sockeye salmon are present in the Russian River Sanctuary Area. The early run Russian River sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the escapement goal four of the last six years. Based on these observations and daily numbers of sockeye salmon passing through the weir it is appropriate to liberalize the fishery by allowing anglers the opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon in the Russian River Sanctuary Area.

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.