

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-25-08

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, August 4, 2008

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2008

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December 31, 2008, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon to one per day and one in possession in all waters of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing above the sockeye salmon sonar counter located at river mile 19, except in the Russian River and 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. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2008, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, December 31, 2008.

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FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA (4)(A)(iii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2008, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, December 31, 2008.

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 in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing upstream of the sockeye salmon sonar counter located at river mile 19, except in the Russian River and Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River is three fish in combination, of which no more than one may be sockeye salmon and no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish; in 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 the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As provided in 5 AAC 21.360 KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (h)(3), if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than 650,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar located at river mile 19.

The sockeye salmon passage estimate, as measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19, is approximately 499,178 fish through August 3. The present passage rates of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River indicate that insufficient numbers of sockeye salmon may reach the Kenai River to meet an optimum spawning escapement of 500,000 – 1,000,000 without a reduction in sport fishery harvest.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-24-08 which closed the sockeye salmon sport fishery in the waters of the Kenai River downstream of the Kenai River sockeye salmon sonar counter located at river mile 19 remains in effect.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.