

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 01-KS-C-17-09

Issued at Petersburg, July 6, 2009

Effective 12:01 a.m.  
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday,  
July 31, 2009 unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 01-KS-C-07-09, issued on May 28, 2009. 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.

### 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Salmon Management Plan, the provisions in 5 AAC 47.021(h)(5) are added, and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(h)(1) are superseded. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. July 8, 2009 through 11:59 p.m., July 31, 2009:

#### **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,

(5) 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 one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length, and one king salmon less than 28 inches in length; 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 8 through July 31, 2009.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Douglas F. Fleming  
Petersburg/Wrangell Area  
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Monitoring of sport and commercial king salmon harvests and escapement to Crystal Lake hatchery have indicated a weak return of kings in 2009. In the most recent aerial survey on July 5<sup>th</sup> approximately 150 king salmon were observed in Blind Slough. The brood stock goal (500 females/ 500 males) is unlikely to be achieved with the current fishing regulations. Closure of the fishery within the freshwater areas will assure that more king salmon will enter Blind Slough for brood stock. A marked reduction in the bag limit for Wrangell Narrows is also being implemented to help achieve the brood stock goal given the weak return.

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