

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-2-25-09

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, July 31, 2009

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Saturday, August 1, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2009 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens Fish Creek in the Big Lake Drainage to personal use dipnetting for sockeye salmon starting at 6:00 a.m., August 1, through 11:00 p.m., August 7. Only sockeye salmon can be retained, all other salmon species caught must be released immediately. Dipnetting will only be allowed between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. In order to participate in this personal use fishery you must have a 2009 Cook Inlet Personal Use Permit and a 2009 resident sport fishing license. The area open to dipnetting is from ADF&G regulatory markers located on both sides of the terminus of Fish Creek, to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one quarter mile upstream from Knik Goose Bay Road.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan (d) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 6:00 a.m., Saturday, August 1, 2009, through 11:00 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2009:

5AAC 77.540 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(d) Salmon may be taken by dip net in Fish Creek as follows:

- (1) the personal use dip net fishery in Fish Creek will open beginning 6:00 a.m. August 1 through 11:00 p.m. August 7, 2009, because the department projects that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Fish Creek will be above the upper end of the escapement goal of 70,000 fish. Fishing is allowed daily only from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.;
- (2) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no other species of salmon may be retained other than sockeye salmon, any salmon caught other than sockeye salmon must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dave Rutz,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

This emergency order opening is based on 2009 inseason data. A late surge of sockeye salmon returning to Fish Creek indicates that escapement will exceed the upper bound of the escapement goal range. Escapement of sockeye salmon into Fish Creek is counted at a weir located upstream of the fishery. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for Fish Creek sockeye salmon is 20,000-70,000. As of July 31, more than 56,000 sockeye salmon have passed through the weir. Based on these weir counts, the Department is projecting a total escapement of over 70,000 sockeye salmon. As the upper bound of the SEG range will likely be exceeded, it is justified to allow a personal use dipnet fishery for sockeye salmon on Fish Creek to harvest fish in excess of escapement goal needs. The increased sockeye salmon harvest as a result of this emergency order will not lower the escapement below the escapement goal range. The restrictions on retention of salmon other than sockeye will minimize negative impacts on sport fishing for coho salmon in this 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.