

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-R-2-16-09

Issued at: Anchorage, Friday, June 26, 2009

Effective Date: 12:01 am., Monday, June 29, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2009, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Ship Creek to sport fishing for all species from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 13.

This emergency order also closes Ship Creek to all sport fishing from the ADF&G regulatory markers located 100 feet upstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam to the upstream side of the Reeve Boulevard Bridge through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 59.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area (14) (A)(G) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 am., Monday, June 29, 2009, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2009:

5 AAC 59.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.

(14) in the Ship Creek drainage,

- (A) the waters from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam are closed to sport fishing through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 13.
- (G) The waters from the ADF&G regulatory markers located 100 feet upstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam to the upstream side of the Reeve Boulevard Bridge are closed to sport fishing,

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Chuck Brazil
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Elmendorf State Hatchery collects broodstock from king salmon returning to the Ship Creek drainage for the primary purpose of providing king salmon sport fishing opportunities in the Anchorage Area. An escapement survey conducted June 26 estimated only 250 king salmon have passed upstream of the dam. This is far below the anticipated escapement for this point in the return; 750 king salmon are needed for broodstock.

Over the past five years 40% of the king salmon run has escaped past the fishery by June 23rd. Salmon smolt and fingerlings reared from broodstock collected from Ship Creek are also used to enhance other popular recreational salmon fisheries in the Anchorage Bowl Area, Knik Arm, Mat-Su Valley, Prince William Sound, Resurrection Bay, and Kenai Peninsula while reducing angling pressure on wild stocks.

Ship Creek is located in downtown Anchorage with improved paved trail access along the reaches above the Chugach Power Plant Dam. Ship Creek broodstock needs have been difficult to meet the past two years with lower than expected returns and an increase in illegal harvest and mortality from incidentally caught king salmon. Therefore, it is necessary to close Ship Creek to sport fishing to ensure that adequate numbers of king and coho salmon return to the hatchery to meet broodstock and stocking goals.

DISTRIBUTION:

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