

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-14-09

Issued at Soldotna: Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2009, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, from three per day, three in possession to six per day, twelve in possession in the Russian/Kenai River “fly-fishing-only area,” downstream to Jim’s Landing on the mainstem Upper Kenai River. This increased bag and possession limit applies to that area of the Kenai River from the boat launch at Jim’s Landing upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday June 17, 2009 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

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. (3)(A) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

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.

(3)(A) in the combined area of the Russian River, Russian River sanctuary area, and a portion of the Kenai River, which consists of the waters of the Kenai River upstream from Jim’s Landing 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 to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is six fish per day, and twelve in possession, of which only one per day and in possession may be a coho salmon;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jason A. Pawluk
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

A total of 19,291 early-run sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir to date, with approximately 6% of the early run complete. Based on average run timing, the escapement is currently projected to exceed the escapement goal of 14,000 to 37,000 fish. Escapement rates through the weir and stream survey information support the projection that the early-run Russian River sockeye salmon upper escapement goal of 37,000 will be exceeded. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority (2)(A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the escapement goal. Therefore, it is warranted to provide additional harvest opportunity and increase the bag and possession limits.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: The following emergency order relating to opening the Russian River sanctuary area to fishing for sockeye salmon remains effective: 2-RS-1-13-09.

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.