

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-04-09

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday July 3, 2009

Effective Date: 8:00 P.M. Saturday July 4, 2009

Expiration Date: August 15, 2009, unless  
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon and the use of bait in all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages effective 8:00 P.M., Saturday July 4, 2009.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. **Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area** (c)(9)(A and B) are superseded by this emergency order and the provisions of 5 AAC 70.030. **Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish** (f) are added. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 8:00 P.M. Saturday July 4, 2009:

**5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area.**

(c)(9)(A and B) In all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages, king salmon may not be retained or possessed.

**5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.**

(f) In the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik rivers, the use of bait is prohibited.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Brendan Scanlon  
Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

**July 3, 2009**

JUSTIFICATION:

Escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River are below historic averages. As of July 2<sup>nd</sup> only 90 king salmon had passed the counting tower. From 2004 – 2008 an average of 201 king salmon had passed the counting tower by this date. Consistent with 5 AAC 04.395 Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan (c), when the projected escapement is below the lower end of the escapement goal, all fishing will be closed. Although it is still early in the run, it appears that the escapement goal for king salmon will not be reached in 2009.

The Department does not have a stock assessment project in the Shaktoolik River, but the king salmon run generally cycles in accordance with Unalakleet River stocks. The elimination of sport harvests of king salmon in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik rivers will provide protection for returning fish. The prohibition of bait while sport fishing is in accordance with provisions set forth in 5 AAC 75.003 (1)(A). This action should minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species.

The Department will continue to evaluate in-season run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met. If in-season stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement goal in the Unalakleet River will be met, restrictions will be relaxed.

DISTRIBUTION:

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner, Governor's Fisheries Policy Advisor, Department of Fish and Game; Director, Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors, Division of Sport and Commercial Fisheries; Members of Board of Fisheries; Director, Fish and Wildlife Protection; Detachment Commander and Area Officer, Board of Fisheries Members; Local Fish and Game Advisory Chairman; AYK Sport Fish Area Biologists, Division of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries; Juneau, Region I; Anchorage, Region II; Fairbanks, Region III; and selected area newspapers, and radio stations.

List is available at ADF&G, Sport Fish Division, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701.