

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-29-10

Issued at: Dillingham, Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 30,
2010

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, December 31, 2010,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage. Any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. This emergency order also prohibits the use of bait in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage through July 31.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. (g)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 30, 2010, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, December 31, 2010:

5AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

- (1) retention of king salmon is prohibited; any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.

(3) if the projected inriver return of king salmon in the Nushagak River is less than 55,000 fish, and to ensure that the projected spawning escapement does not fall below 40,000 fish, shall establish, by emergency order, fishing periods to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River during which any, or a combination of the following restrictions may be applied:

- (A) reduction of bag and possession limits

- (i) from two to one fish; and

- (ii) if necessary, from one fish to non-retention of king salmon; if a non-retention fishery for king salmon is established under this paragraph, the use of bait will be prohibited until the end of the king salmon season;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Jason E. Dye

Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

These restrictions are made in accordance with 5 AAC 06.361 Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan. The plan directs the department to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River when the department projects the total inriver return will be less than 55,000 fish. These restrictions are implemented to ensure that the projected spawning escapement does not fall below 40,000 fish when projected inriver returns are less than 55,000. Through June 28 an estimated total of 21,654 king salmon have passed the sonar at Portage Creek, and the total inriver return is not projected to reach 55,000.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-25-10, which reduced the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from 2 fish, only one of which may exceed 28 inches in length to 1 fish 20 inches or greater in length in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.