

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-PS-01-10

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday July 9, 2010

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday July 10, 2010

Expiration Date: September 15, 2010, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the sport fish bag and possession limit for pink salmon in all fresh water drainages and salt waters in that portion of Northern Norton Sound from the west bank of the Sinuk River to Cape Darby (also referred to as the Nome and Golovin subdistricts) from 10 to 20 fish, effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 10, 2010.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area. (c) (3) (A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

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

(c)(3)(A)(i) in all waters of the portion of Northern Norton Sound from the west bank of the Sinuk River to Cape Darby, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon, is 20 fish, with no size limit.

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Brendan Scanlon
Northwest Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Aerial surveys conducted in the Nome Subdistrict observed large schools of pink salmon along the coast from the Sinuk River east to Solomon River and escapements of pink salmon into the rivers of the Nome Subdistrict are expected to be well above average. In the Nome River, 1,500 pink salmon have passed the counting tower as of July 7th but over 15,000 were counted in the lower river below the weir by aerial survey, with many more seen nearby in marine waters. The lower bound sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for pink salmon in the Nome River is 13,000 fish. Similarly, escapement counts of pink salmon at the Niukluk River tower have already exceeded the lower bound SEG of 10,500 fish. As of July 7th, 80,000 pink salmon have passed the tower. Other nearby drainages, while not having escapement goals or enumeration projects, track similarly to the Nome River and are showing large returns of pink salmon as well. In anticipation of large escapements, the Division of Commercial Fisheries has waived the pink salmon limits for the subsistence fishery in the Nome Subdistrict. Due to the high projected escapement of pink salmon in the Nome River drainage and continued high returns of pink salmon in other drainages within the Nome Subdistrict, an increase in the sport fish bag and possession limit for pink salmon from 10 to 20 fish is warranted.

DISTRIBUTION:

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