

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-19-11

Issued at: Dillingham, Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 13,
2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31,
2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-5-14-11, issued at Dillingham June 22, 2011. The annual limit for king salmon 20 inches in length or greater in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage is restored from two fish to four. The bag and possession limit of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage remains at one per day. The limit for king salmon less than 20 inches remains at five per day, five in possession, no annual limit. These restrictions are effective 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 13, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2011.

All king salmon recorded prior to Wednesday, July 13, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card count against the annual limit of four king salmon 20 inches or greater in length.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area (g)(1) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 13, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2011:

5AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the 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) the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish; the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is four fish; the bag and possession limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length is five fish; all king salmon recorded before Wednesday, July 13, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card count against the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after July 13.

Cora Campbell,
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 lower the bag limit for king salmon 20 inches and greater in length to one per day in the Nushagak River drainage when the department projects the total in-river return will be fewer than 75,000 fish. Additionally, the plan directs the department to further restrict the king salmon sport fishery when the projection for the total in-river return is fewer than 55,000 fish. Through July 10, approximately 86 percent into the return, an estimated 53,201 king salmon have been counted past the Portage Creek sonar. The department is now able to project that the in-river return of king salmon will exceed 55,000 fish therefore a reduction of the annual limit in the sport fishery is no longer warranted. However, because the projection remains below 75,000 fish, the bag limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length remains at one per day.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-5-14-11, issued at Dillingham June 22, 2011.

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.