

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-30-12

Issued at: Dillingham, Monday, July 2, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-25-12, issued June 26, 2012. This emergency order restores the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches in length or greater in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage 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 provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 3, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2012.

All king salmon recorded prior to Tuesday, July 3, 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 (g)(1) are superceded by this emergency order.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., Tuesday, July 3, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2012:

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-Mulchatna 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 Tuesday, July 3 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.

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Jason E. Dye
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

These provisions are made in accordance with 5 AAC 06.361, Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan. The plan directs the department to lower the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches and greater in length to one per day, one in possession, in the Nushagak-Mulchatna 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 run is fewer than 55,000 fish. Through July 1, an estimated 46,945 king salmon have passed the Portage Creek sonar. The department is now able to project that the in-river return of king salmon will likely exceed 55,000 fish, therefore the reduction of the annual limit in place for the sport fishery is no longer warranted. However, because the projection remains below 75,000 fish, the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length remains at 1 per day.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDER AFFECTED:

Emergency Order Number 2-KS-5-25-12, which restricted the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage bag, possession, and annual limits for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, is rescinded.

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.