

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-25-12

Issued at: Dillingham, Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 28, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

The bag, possession, and annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage is reduced from two per day, only one of which may be 28 inches or greater in length, with an annual limit of four; to one per day, with an annual limit of two. This emergency order is effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 28, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2012.

Up to two king salmon recorded before Thursday, June 28 on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after June 28. Bag and possession limits for king salmon under 20" in length remain at five per day; no annual limit.

### 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 (g)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 28, 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 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 two fish; the bag and possession limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length is five fish; up to two king salmon recorded before Thursday, June 28 on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after June 28.

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. To ensure that the projected spawning escapement does not fall below 40,000 fish, the plan directs the Department to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage when the department projects the total inriver run will be less than 55,000 fish. Through June 25, approximately 40% into the run, an estimated 22,000 king salmon have passed the Portage Creek sonar. Because of uncertainty associated with the king salmon assessment portion in the Portage Creek sonar program, the department is unable to project at this date that the inriver run of king salmon will exceed 55,000 fish. Due to low returns of Nushagak king salmon in recent years and poor performance of king salmon stocks statewide in 2012, a conservative approach is warranted to slow down the Nushagak sport harvest.

**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.