

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-C-08-13

Issued at Petersburg, Thursday, May
30, 2013.

Effective 12:01 A.M.
Date: Saturday, June 1, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M.
Wednesday, July 31, 2013 unless
superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes the freshwaters of Blind Slough upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point to all sport fishing in order to reduce the harvest of king salmon entering fresh waters that will be needed for brood stock at Crystal Lake Hatchery, as prescribed in the District 6: Wrangell Narrow-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381).

REGULATION:

This emergency order supersedes provisions of 5 AAC 47.023.(h)(1)(C) and under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 A.M. Saturday, June 1 through 11:59 P.M. Wednesday, July 31, 2013:

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

- (1) in Blind Slough, upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point,
- (c) all waters are closed to fishing.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Douglas Fleming
Petersburg/Wrangell Area
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sport fishery for hatchery-produced king salmon in terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows and Blind Slough is managed under the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381). This plan distributes harvest of the Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon run among sport and commercial troll fisheries while preserving a portion of the run for hatchery brood stock. In 2013, the Crystal Lake Hatchery adult king salmon return is projected to be 1,800 adult fish to the terminal harvest area (THA).

As prescribed in the plan, if the projected king salmon return to the THA is between 1,000 and 2,000 fish, the department would close fishing in the designated freshwaters of Blind Slough and for marine waters within the THA, set the bag and possession limit at two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length from June 1 through July 31. Consistent with the management plan, Blind Slough freshwaters will be closed to all sport fishing.

Broodstock goals at the Crystal Lake hatchery have not been achieved in the last four years, and are not expected to be met in 2013 without further restrictions. Collecting adequate broodstock is necessary for future releases of king salmon in the Petersburg area. This closure in Blind Slough freshwaters is needed to ensure adequate brood stock collection at the Crystal Lake Hatchery (CLH) in 2013. In addition, conservative regional regulations will remain in effect in THA marine waters to meet the broodstock needs.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270 and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley, P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833, (907) 772-5231.