

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-04-14

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Friday, May 30, 2014

Expiration Date: August 15, 2014, unless  
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages to sport fishing for king salmon and prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing, effective 12:01 A.M. Friday, May 30, 2014.

### REGULATION:

In accordance with 5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan, the provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area (c)(9)(A and B) are superseded by this emergency order and the provisions of 5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish (f) are added. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 30, 2014:

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

(c)(9)(A and B) In all waters of the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik river drainages, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon unintentionally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

#### **5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provision – Finfish.**

(f) In the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet rivers, the use of bait is prohibited.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Brendan Scanlon  
Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Preseason projections indicate that king salmon runs into the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik rivers will be poor; the projected king salmon escapement is below the lower end of the escapement goal range. The king salmon Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) at the North River counting tower on the Unalakleet River is 1,200 – 2,600 fish, and has been met just 3 times in the previous 10 years (2004 – 2013). According to the *Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 04.395), if the projected king salmon escapement is below the lower end of the escapement goal range, all fishing for king salmon will be closed.

The Department does not have a stock assessment project in the Shaktoolik River, but the king salmon run generally cycles in accordance with Unalakleet River stocks. The elimination of sport fishing for king salmon in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik rivers will provide protection for returning fish. The prohibition of bait while sport fishing is in accordance with provisions set forth in 5 AAC 75.003 (1)(A). This action is taken to minimize mortality of king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species.

The Department will continue to evaluate in-season run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that the king salmon escapement goal in the Unalakleet River will be met, restrictions will be relaxed.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701, (907) 459-7228.