

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-05-14

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, May 28,
2014

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Monday, June 2, 2014

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superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters from Black Point to Point Romanof and from Rocky Point to Cape Denbigh to sport fishing for king salmon, effective 12:01 A.M. Monday, June 2, 2014.

All king salmon caught unintentionally, in the waters described above, while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area (c)(10) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 2, 2014:

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

(c)(10) In all waters from Black Point to Point Romanof and from Rocky Point to Cape Denbigh, 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.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to:



Thomas Taube
Regional Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Preseason projections indicate that king salmon runs into Norton Sound rivers will be poor. The king salmon Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for the Kwiniuk River and Fish River/Boston Creek are 300 – 550 fish and 100 fish, respectively. The goal for the Kwiniuk River has been met just 3 times in the previous 10 years (2004 – 2013), while the Boston Creek goal has been met once out of 3 years during which counts were obtained, in most years from 2004 – 2013 conditions did not allow an aerial survey of Boston Creek to be completed.

The Department does not have king salmon stock assessment projects in other Norton Sound tributaries, but there is no indication that king salmon runs in Norton Sound are going to be better than those in other western Alaska drainages such as the Unalakleet, Yukon, and Kuskokwim drainages, all of which have already been closed to sport fishing for king salmon by emergency order. Subsistence fishing closures for king salmon will be implemented in Norton Sound waters beginning June 9th. The Department will continue to evaluate in-season run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met.

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.