

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-7-09-06

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the English Bay River drainage and Port Graham Subdistrict to sport fishing for sockeye salmon from 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2006 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (b)(6)(A) are superceded by this emergency order; and the provisions of 5 AAC 58.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COOK INLET – RESURRECTION BAY SALTWATER (b)(2)(E) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2006 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006:

5 AAC 56.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA

(b)(6) English Bay River drainage:

(A) The English Bay River from its mouth, including the lagoon, upstream to Lower English Bay Lake, from June 1 – July 31, is a fly-fishing-only water; and is closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed during the closure.

5 AAC 58.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COOK INLET – RESURRECTION BAY SALTWATER

(b)(2)(E) The Port Graham Subdistrict, including all waters east of the longitude of Point Bede at 151° 59.40 and south of the latitude of Point Pogibshi at 59° 25.47, is closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2006 preseason forecast for sockeye salmon returning to the English Bay lakes in the Port Graham Subdistrict of the Southern District is 5,700 fish. This is less than the lower end of the established sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 6,000 – 13,500 for this system. As a result, all returning fish will likely be required for spawning escapement, and no harvestable surplus is expected. Based on traditional run timing for this stock, beginning in late May, closure of fisheries targeting these fish in area waters is prudent to protect them for escapement purposes. Therefore, all waters of Port Graham Subdistrict and the English Bay drainage will be closed to both subsistence and sport fishing beginning 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2006; additionally these waters will not open to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing at the beginning of June as set forth in regulation. Escapement at the English Bay River weir will be monitored inseason so as to assess run strength, but reopening of these fisheries is unlikely unless the actual sockeye return is considerably stronger than projected and escapement requirements are met or can be projected.

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.