

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-20-06

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, July 7, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 8, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the daily bag limit for salmon 16 inches or longer, other than king salmon, from three per day and three in possession to six per day and twelve in possession in all portions of the Kasilof River open to salmon fishing. No more than two salmon per day and two in possession may be coho salmon. This emergency order is effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 8, 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 (EXCLUDING THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE) (b)(7)(D) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 8, 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 (EXCLUDING THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE).

(b)(7),Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

(D) salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length; bag limit is six fish and possession limit is twelve fish, of which two per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As provided by 5 AAC 75.003. EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY (2) (A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the escapement goal. The escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River is currently projected to exceed the biological escapement goal range of 150,000 – 250,000 fish. As of midnight, July 5, a total of 96,954 sockeye salmon passed the Kasilof River sonar station. The timing and strength of the 2006 Kasilof River sockeye salmon return is likely late and is forecasted to be strong. As of July 5, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run on average is 35% complete. The escapement rate of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River is proceeding at a rate greater than needed to assure meeting the escapement goal. Therefore, it is warranted to liberalize the inriver sport fishery in the Kasilof River. This liberalization is part of a formal management strategy that also includes increased commercial fishing times and areas. The management strategy also allows for commercial boats to fish in the Kasilof Terminal Harvest Area.

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.