

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-36-06

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, August 2, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 3, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 becomes effective at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 3, 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., Thursday, August 3, 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:

The escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River has exceeded the upper end of the biological escapement goal of 150,000 - 250,000 fish. As of midnight, August 1, a total of 284,084 sockeye salmon have passed the Kasilof River sonar station. The strength of the 2006 Kasilof River sockeye salmon return has continued to be strong all season as forecasted.

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 rate of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River is proceeding at a rate greater than needed to assure optimum escapement levels. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than kings, to six per day and twelve in possession in all portions of the Kasilof River open to salmon sport fishing.

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.