

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-33-06

Issued at Soldotna: Sunday, July 30, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 31, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reopens the sockeye salmon sport fishery in all waters of the Kenai River drainage open to salmon fishing and returns the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to 3 fish per day and in possession, of which only two can be coho salmon. This emergency order becomes effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 31, 2006.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order 2-RS-1-31-06 is rescinded effective at 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 31, 2006.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sockeye salmon passage estimate as measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is approximately 533,102 fish through July 29. Present escapement rates of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River, coupled with the run strength assessment of the return of this stock, now indicate the run is unusually late and that sufficient numbers of sockeye salmon will continue to enter the river to provide for the optimum spawning escapement of 500,000 – 1,000,000 fish. Since the minimum SEG is projected to be achieved, the sockeye salmon sport fishery will be reopened in all waters of the Kenai River drainage open to salmon fishing and the daily bag and possession limits will return to 3 salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length per day and in possession, of which only two may be coho salmon.

The Cook Inlet commercial fishery has been reopened in the Central District to fish a regular fishing period, and the Kenai River personal use fishery and educational fishery have also been reopened.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order -RS-1-27-06, which reduced the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon from three per day and in possession to one per day and in possession in the Kenai River watershed except for in the Russian River and the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River was previously superseded by Emergency Order 2-RS-1-31-06. Emergency Order 2-RS-1-31-06, which closed the sockeye salmon sport fishery in all waters of the Kenai River drainage open to salmon fishing except in the Russian River “fly-fishing-only” waters, is rescinded by this Emergency Order.

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.