

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-14-11

Issued at: Dillingham, Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 24, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

The bag and possession limits for king salmon 20 inches in length or greater in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage are reduced from two per day, only one of which may be greater than 28 inches in length, to one per day. In addition, the annual limit of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage is reduced from four fish to two. The limit for king salmon less than 20 inches remains at five per day, five in possession, no annual limit. These restrictions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 24, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2011.

Up to two king salmon recorded prior to Friday, June 24, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after June 24.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area. (g)(1) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 24, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2011:

5AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area.

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

- (1) the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish; the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is two fish; the bag and possession limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length is five fish; up to two king salmon recorded before Friday, June 24 on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after June 24.

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Jason E. Dye
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

These restrictions are made in accordance with 5 AAC 06.361, Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan. The plan directs the Department to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River when the department projects the total inriver return will be less than 55,000 fish. As of June 20, approximately 20percent into the return, an estimated 5,600 king salmon have been counted past the Portage Creek sonar. Because of uncertainty associated with the king salmon assessment portion in the Portage Creek sonar program, the department is unable to project at his early date that the inriver return of king salmon will exceed 55,000 fish. Restrictions to the sport fishery are warranted to slow the sport harvest.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.