

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-50-14

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Thursday, August 14, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
December 31, 2014, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-46-14, issued in Palmer on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 and allows sport fishing on Fish Creek seven days per week. The bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length remains at three per day and in possession, of which all three may be coho salmon, for the waters of Fish Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Wasilla Creek. Cottonwood Creek and Wasilla Creek remains a three-day fishery open each Saturday through Monday. Fish, Wasilla, and Cottonwood creeks are open to fishing only from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. Other Knik Arm waters, including the Little Susitna River, Jim Creek, and the Eklutna Tailrace, remain unaffected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area. (4)(A), (5)(A), and (11)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 6:00 a.m., Thursday, August 14, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2014:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(4) in the Cottonwood Creek drainage,

(A) from August 14 – December 31, from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located one mile upstream from the Palmer Hayflat State Game Refuge access road, sport fishing is allowed only on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is three fish, of which all three may be coho salmon;

(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) from August 14 – December 31, the waters from ADF&G regulatory markers located at its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, are open to sport fishing from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is three fish, of which all three may be coho salmon;

(11) the Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough,

(D) from August 14 – December 31, downstream of the Alaska Railroad Bridge is open to sport fishing for salmon, except king salmon, on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays from 6:00 a.m. to

6:00 p.m.; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is three fish, of which all three may be coho salmon; a person who takes the bag limit of salmon from Wasilla Creek may not sport fish for any species of fish that same day in waters open to sport fishing for salmon;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Samantha Oslund,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal for coho salmon in Fish Creek is 1,200-4,400 fish. Counts of 1,593 coho salmon past the weir through August 5 justified emergency order No. 2-SS-2-46-14, which increased the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to three fish and extended the weekend only fisheries of Fish, Cottonwood, and Wasilla creeks with the addition of Mondays. As of August 12, an estimated 2,769 coho salmon have passed the weir. Based on historical run timing the department expects the final weir count to exceed the escapement goal for this stock. It is not anticipated that increased sport harvest from this emergency order will lower escapement below the goal in Fish Creek. Therefore it is warranted to provide additional sport fish harvest opportunity and allow fishing 7 days per week in Fish Creek.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency order No. 2-SS-2-46-14, which increased the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to three fish and extended the weekend only fisheries of Fish, Cottonwood, and Wasilla creeks with the addition of Mondays, is superseded 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.