

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-SS-01-15

Issued at Fairbanks, August 11, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 15, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for coho salmon to ten (10) fish in all waters of the Unalakleet River drainage. Beginning Wednesday, August 12, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 10 fish, of which only four fish in combination may be chum and sockeye salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area. (c)(9)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 12, 2015:

5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area.

(c)(9) in the Unalakleet River drainage,

(C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 10 fish, of which only four fish in combination may be chum and sockeye salmon.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner



Brendan Scanlon
Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

By delegation to:

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative count of coho salmon at the counting tower on the North River, a tributary of the Unalakeet River, is well above the recent 5-year average. Projections of escapement to the North River based on 2,830 coho salmon counted through August 10 range between 4,300–8,300 coho salmon. This range of projected escapements will be sufficient to exceed the North River aerial survey-based sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 550–1,100 coho salmon. In addition, cumulative escapement counts of coho salmon at the Unalakeet River floating weir are almost twice the previous high for this date since the project began operation in 2010. As of August 10th, 27,128 coho salmon had passed the weir. This is well above the average of 11,048 coho salmon by this date. Due to the high escapement of coho salmon in the Unalakeet River drainage and projections to exceed the upper bound of the SEG at the North River tower, an increase in the bag and possession limit for coho salmon from 4 to 10 fish is warranted. It is anticipated that the additional harvest associated with the increased bag limit will not reduce the escapement below the SEG.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701, (907) 459-7228.