

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-A-07-16

Issued at Ketchikan, Thursday, April  
14, 2016.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday,  
Date: May 24, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, June  
30, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:** This emergency order closes a portion of northern Behm Canal to salmon fishing and reduces the king salmon bag and possession to one fish in west Behm Canal in order to reduce sport harvest of Unuk River king salmon.

**REGULATION:** The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(j)(7) and (8) are added under this emergency order and become effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

(j) In the Ketchikan vicinity:

(7) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from Point Lees to Elsie Point and a line from Elsie Point to the longitude of the outlet of Long Lake (131°26.100' W. long.), and to the south by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55°56.036' N. lat., 131°37.943' W. long. to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55°54.276' N. lat., 131°37.798' W. long., and a line from Fin Point at 55°51.256' N. lat., 131°35.415' W. long. to Dress Point at 55°51.145' N. lat., 131°33.748' W. long., fishing for salmon is closed;

(8) in west Behm Canal enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55°56.036' N. lat., 131°37.943' W. long. to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55°54.276' N. lat., 131°37.798' W. long. and a line from Fin Point at 55°51.256' N. lat., 131°35.415' W. long. to Dress Point at 55°51.145' N. lat., 131°33.748' W. long., and to the south by a line from Niblack Point 55°32.998' N. lat., 132°07.228' W. long., to South VallenarPoint 55°22.878' N. lat., 131°52.747' W. long.:

- (A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;
- (B) the nonresident annual limit is six king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Kelly Piazza  
Area Management Biologist  
Division of Sport Fish

**JUSTIFICATION:** Unuk River king salmon, like other Southeast Alaska king salmon stocks, are experiencing a period of low productivity. The Unuk River king salmon escapement goal is 1,800 – 3,800 fish. After attaining its escapement goal for 35 consecutive years, the Unuk River failed to achieve the goal in three of the last four years. The 2016 preseason forecast is for a total run of approximately 2,500 king salmon. Given recent fishery and harvest trends, a run of that size is not expected to provide for the escapement goal without fishery restrictions.

Unuk River king salmon are caught in the sport fishery throughout the marine waters of Southeast Alaska. Unuk River king salmon are coded-wire-tagged as smolt and recaptured as adults in marine fisheries. From 1986 – 2015, 68% of the total Unuk River recoveries in the Ketchikan sport fishery were caught in the following three statistical areas: 101-90 (west Behm Canal), 101-80 (north Behm Canal) and 101-45. Based on tag recoveries in the marine sport fishery, the peak sport harvest of Unuk River king salmon in these areas occurs from May 24 – June 27.

Since the 2016 forecast is not expected to provide for the escapement goal given fishery and harvest trends similar to recent years, the actions implemented in this emergency order are necessary to reduce the harvest of Unuk River king salmon in an effort to ensure the escapement goal is achieved in 2016.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.