

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-11-16

Issued at: Kodiak, Monday,
March 14, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
August 31, 2016 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the filleting, mutilating and de-heading of king salmon at-sea by marine boat anglers returning to Kodiak road system ports from May 31 – August 31, 2016.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish (h) are added by this emergency order and become effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(h) In the Kodiak Area, marine boat anglers returning to any port on the Kodiak road system, may not fillet, mutilate, or de-head any sport caught king salmon until they have been offloaded, unless they are preserved or have been consumed on board.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Donn Tracy
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2016, the department is conducting a creel sampling project in the Kodiak Regulatory Area to estimate length and sex composition of king salmon harvested in the marine waters sport fishery, and determine the contributions of hatchery and certain wild stocks of king salmon. Many anglers fillet, de-head, and process fish before returning to port, which makes it impossible for department samplers to determine length and sex of harvested king salmon, or recover tagged heads from fish that have been implanted with a coded-wire tag. This results in a diminished ability to estimate the contributions of specific king salmon stocks and hatchery-origin fish to the sport fishery.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulations giving the department authority to restrict these activities by emergency order during times and in locations necessary for scientific data collection. These actions are important to fisheries management. This regulation will be in effect for the duration of the 2016 creel sampling project. Anglers returning to these ports still have the ability to consume king salmon or preserve these fish, if they so choose, before offloading.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.