

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-36-16

Issued at: Soldotna, Thursday, July 21, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 22, 2016

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December 31, 2016, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for salmon 16 inches or longer, other than king and coho salmon, from three per day, six in possession, to six per day, twelve in possession, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. No more than two salmon 16 inches or longer per day and in possession may be coho salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area (4)(A)(iii) are superseded and (4)(A)(vi) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 22, 2016:

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) except as provided in (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is six fish per day, 12 in possession, of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

(vi) except as provided in (iii) and (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish per day, six in possession, of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jason Pawluk
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan 5* AAC 21.360 (h)(2) stipulates that the department may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as appropriate when the department determines that the abundance of late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon exceeds 2,300,000 fish.

As of July 20, 2016, the department projects the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is greater than 2.3 million fish and anticipates the optimal escapement goal (700,000 – 1,400,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved. Determining if the escapement goal will be achieved is done by subtracting the anticipated inriver sockeye salmon harvest above the river mile 19 sonar of 350,000 to 400,000 fish from the projected end of season total inriver run estimated at the river mile 19 sockeye salmon sonar. As of July 20 the inriver run of sockeye salmon is expected to exceed 1,100,000 fish. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, to six per day, 12 in possession, of which no more than two may be coho salmon.

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.