

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-39-16

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Saturday, August 13, 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December 31, 2016, unless superseded by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, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to three per day, three in possession, of which, all three may be coho salmon for the waters of Fish, Cottonwood, and Wasilla creeks open to fishing for salmon. In addition, this emergency order extends the two-day weekend fisheries of Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks to three days to take place each Saturday through Monday and Fish Creek to a seven day per week fishery. Fish, Wasilla, and Cottonwood creeks remain 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 for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, 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 (4)(A), (5)(A), and (11)(D) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Saturday, August 13 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2016:

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

(4) in the Cottonwood Creek drainage,

(A) from August 13 – 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 13 – 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 13 – 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;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for coho salmon in Fish Creek is 1,200 - 4,400 fish. As of August 9, weir counts indicate 2,059 coho salmon have passed the weir. Based on weir counts and average run timing, the department is projecting to exceed the SEG. Based upon previous studies, there is a correlation in run size between runs to Fish Creek and runs to other Knik Arm streams, specifically Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for coho salmon and open additional days of fishing for these weekend-only fisheries. It is not anticipated that the increased sport harvest from this emergency order will lower the escapement below desired escapement levels in Cottonwood, Fish, and Wasilla creeks.

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.