

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-40-16

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, August 18, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 20, 2016

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December 31, 2016, unless superseded by  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

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Jim Creek to sport fishing for salmon.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 ACC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area. (8)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 20, 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.**

(8) in the Knik River drainage, including Jim Creek and the Eklutna Tailrace, as follows:

(F) except as specified in (B) of this paragraph, in the Jim Creek drainage, downstream to the Knik River and continuing downstream, on the Knik River to the boundary of the closed waters described in (A) of this paragraph, sport fishing is open for all finfish species except salmon, except that

(i) from the second Saturday in August through December 31, sport fishing is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays;

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Sam Ivey,  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for Jim Creek is 450 – 1,400 coho salmon as indexed by an annual foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a tributary within the Jim Creek drainage. The SEG was not achieved in 2010 – 2012 despite inseason restrictions or closures to the sport fishery or in 2014 after a regulatory change was implemented to reduce harvest. The SEG was attained in 2015 after closure of the fishery late in the season. The 2016 run of coho salmon to Jim Creek appears to be weak as indicated by low daily weir counts, poor fishing success, and department stream surveys. The coho run

is tracking below years the weir was operated (1993, 1994, and 2015) and the goal was achieved. Given the weak showing of coho salmon in Jim Creek and recent history of the SEG not being achieved, a conservative approach to management is warranted to restrict sport fishing at this time.

The department will continue to monitor run strength at Jim Creek using the weir and through boat surveys of upper Jim Creek and Leaf Lake. If run strength improves to a level that can support a larger harvest, restrictions to the sport fishery may be rescinded.

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.