

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-30-17

Issued at Sitka, Wednesday,
September 20, 2017.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday,
Date: October 1, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
March 31, 2018 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: The retention of king salmon in the Southeast Alaska sport fishery was prohibited August 10 through September 30, 2017 under Emergency Order 1-KS-R-28-17 to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild king salmon. Emergency Order 1-KS-R-28-17 expires September 30, 2017 requiring, as directed by 5 AAC 47.020(1), the commissioner establish bag, possession, and annual limits for king salmon, by emergency order as specified in 5 AAC 47.055 (*Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*). The 2017 season abundance index of 1.27 prescribes that the resident bag limit will be two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; the nonresident bag limit will be one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length. The nonresident annual limit will be three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length. In addition, a resident sport angler may use two rods from October through March.

REGULATION: Consistent with stipulations within 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*, the provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (21) are added by this emergency order and become effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, October 1, 2017. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(21) king salmon:

- (A) a resident sport fish angler may use two rods from October 1 through March 31; a person using two rods may only retain king salmon;
- (B) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (C) the nonresident bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (D) the nonresident annual limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

By delegation to:

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks are experiencing a period of low productivity and production. In 2016, postseason escapement estimates from the king salmon stock assessment program in Southeast Alaska indicated 9 of the 11 king salmon index systems monitored missed the lower bound of spawning escapement goals. This trend of low Southeast Alaska wild king salmon productivity and abundance was expected to continue and in 2017 conservative management actions began in April to reduce Southeast Alaska wild king salmon harvest in the Yakutat, Haines/Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg/Wrangell and Ketchikan sport fisheries. Then in early August, initial escapement surveys of Southeast Alaska king salmon index systems indicated that Southeast Alaska wild king salmon productivity and production was lower than anticipated and the decision was made to prohibit the retention of king salmon in all Southeast Alaska fisheries August 10 through September 30, 2017. Given that effort and the subsequent harvest of king salmon in the sport fishery from October through the end March is low; the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery is being reopened under the management prescriptions outlined in general regulation 5 AAC 47.020(1) and the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055).

The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* prescribes management measures based upon the preseason abundance index determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission. The preseason abundance index for the 2017 season is 1.27. At this abundance index level, the plan specifies a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; and the opportunity for resident anglers to use two rods from October through March.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: The following emergency order specific to the management of king salmon in the Haines/Skagway management area sport fishery will remain in effect:

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-F-05-17 prohibits the retention of king salmon in the waters of Section 15-A, Lynn Canal north of the ADF&G regulatory marker at Sherman Rock, including Chilkat Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet, Lutak Inlet, and Taiya Inlet remains in effect through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017.

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) 747-5551.