

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-16-17

Issued at: Dillingham, Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 23, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag, possession, and annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage from two per day, only one of which may be 28 inches or greater in length, with an annual limit of four; to one per day, 20 inches or greater in length, with an annual limit of two.

Up to two king salmon recorded before Friday, June 23, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after June 23. Bag and possession limit for king salmon under 20 inches in length remains at five fish; no annual limit.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022. (g)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 23 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017:

5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area.

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

(1) the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish; the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is two fish; the bag and possession limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length is five fish; up to two king salmon recorded before Friday, June 23 on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after June 23.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Jason E. Dye
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

These restrictions are made in accordance with 5 AAC 06.361. *Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan*. To ensure that the projected spawning escapement does not fall below 55,000 fish, the plan directs the Department to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage when the Department projects the total inriver run will be less than 70,000 fish. Through June 20, approximately 22% into the run, an estimated 2,832 king salmon have passed the Portage Creek sonar. Therefore, the Department is unable to project at this date that the inriver run of king salmon will exceed 70,000 fish. Due to the low counts and inriver projection, a conservative approach is warranted to reduce the Nushagak River drainage sport harvest.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.