

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-36-17

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 21, 2017

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,  
December 31, 2017, unless superseded by  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 four fish for the waters of Fish Creek open to fishing for salmon. In addition, this emergency order extends the two-day weekend fishery at Fish Creek to a seven day per week fishery. Fish Creek remains open to fishing only from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. Other Knik Arm waters, including the Little Susitna River, the Eklutna Tailrace, and Jim, Wasilla, and Cottonwood creeks 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the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area (5)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 22, 2017, through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017:

#### **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.**

(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) from August 22 - 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 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 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 four fish;

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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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 20, 2017, weir counts indicate 3,302 coho salmon have passed the weir. Based on weir counts and average run timing, the department is projecting to exceed the SEG. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for coho salmon and open additional days of fishing. It is not anticipated that the increased sport harvest from this emergency order will lower the escapement of any salmon species below desired escapement levels in Fish Creek.

**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.