

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-W-07-17

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 14, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, 2017, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 3-KS-W-04-17, issued on Monday, April 17, 2017 and opens sport fishing for king salmon in all waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof with a bag and possession limit of one fish, with no size limit, and an annual limit for king salmon of one fish.

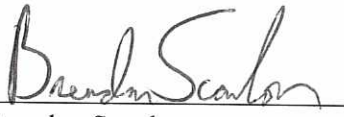
REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011 (c)(11) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 14, 2017:

5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area.

(c)(11) in all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, the bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish, with no size limit; annual limit of one fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Brendan Scanlon
Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Daily escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River have increased recently, and the lower end of the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 1,200 fish is projected to be exceeded. According to the *Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan*, when the subsistence fishing periods in the Unalakleet River drainage are restricted to less than two 36-hour openings, or the subsistence fishery in the marine waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6 are restricted to a mesh size of six inches or less, the sport fish bag and possession limit and annual limit for king salmon will be one fish, with no size limit. Current subsistence fishery management includes both of these actions.

The department does not have reliable inseason stock assessment information for the Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia river drainages, but the king salmon runs in these rivers generally cycle in accordance with Unalakleet River stocks. Therefore, using the tower counts on the North River as an index for run strength in these nearby rivers, this emergency order applies to the king salmon sport fishery in the Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia river drainages as well.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.