

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-55-18

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Friday, August 10, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,
December 31, 2018, unless superseded by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 per day and four in possession, of which, all four may be coho salmon from the waters of Cottonwood Creek and Wasilla Creek open to salmon fishing. In addition, this emergency order extends the two-day weekend fisheries of Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks to four days per week to take place each Friday through Monday. Wasilla and Cottonwood creeks remain 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, Jim Creek, Fish Creek, and the Eklutna Tailrace, remain unaffected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (4)(A) and (11)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 5:00 a.m. Friday, August 10 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, December 31, 2018:

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.

(4) in the Cottonwood Creek drainage,

(A) from August 10 - December 31, from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located one mile upstream from the Palmer Hayflat State Game Refuge access road, sport fishing is allowed only on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish, of which all four may be coho salmon; a person who takes a bag limit of salmon from Cottonwood Creek may not sport fish for any species of fish that same day in waters open to sport fishing for salmon;

(11) the Wasilla Creek drainage, including Rabbit Slough,

(D) from August 10 - December 31, downstream of the Alaska Railroad Bridge is open to sport fishing for salmon, except king salmon, on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is four fish, of which all four may be coho salmon; a person who takes a bag limit of salmon from Wasilla Creek may not sport fish for any species of fish that same day in waters open to sport fishing for salmon;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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 7, 2018, weir counts indicate 1,222 coho salmon have passed the weir and the projected escapement is 6,500 fish, above the SEG range. Based upon previous studies, there is a correlation in run size between runs to Fish Creek and runs to other Knik Arm streams, specifically Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for coho salmon and open additional days of fishing for these weekend-only fisheries. It is not anticipated that the increased sport harvest from this emergency order will lower the escapement below desired escapement levels in Cottonwood and Wasilla creeks.

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.