

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-54-18

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Thursday, August 9, 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December 31, 2018, unless superseded by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 coho salmon in waters open to salmon fishing in Fish Creek. The bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is six fish, of which only 4 fish may coho salmon.

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-52-18 but keeps the previous liberalization of allowing sport fishing in Fish Creek to seven days per week, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. Other Knik Arm waters, including the Little Susitna River, Eklutna Tailrace, Jim, Wasilla, and Cottonwood creeks remain unaffected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (5)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 5:00 a.m. Thursday, August 9 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.

(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) from August 9 - 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 six fish, of which only four may be coho 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, approximately 1,222 coho salmon have passed the weir, with a projected escapement of 6,500 fish. The SEG for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek is 15,000-45,000 fish. As of August 7, approximately 50,000 fish had passed the weir, with a projected escapement of more than 54,000 fish. Therefore, it is warranted to maintain the increased the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon and increase the coho salmon bag and possession limit and open additional days of fishing. The increase in harvest of both sockeye and coho salmon as a result of this action will not reduce the escapement below the lower bound of the SEG ranges for these species.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-52-18, which increased the bag and possession limit for salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to six fish, of which only two fish may be coho salmon and allowed sport fishing seven days per week in Fish Creek is superseded in order to further increase the bag and possession limit for salmon on Fish Creek by allowing additional coho salmon 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.