

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-SS-W-01-18

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday, August 16, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 17, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2018, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the sport fish bag and possession limit for coho salmon to ten (10) fish in all waters of the Unalakleet River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area (c)(9)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 17, 2018:

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

(c)(9) in the Unalakleet River drainage,

(C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 10 fish, of which only four fish, in combination, may be chum and sockeye salmon;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Brendan Scanlon

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative count of coho salmon at the counting tower on the North River, a tributary of the Unalakleet River, is well above the recent 5-year average. As of August 14, 11,247 coho salmon have been counted at the North River tower, compared to the recent 10-year average 3,469 fish. While no aerial surveys have been conducted on the North River, the coho salmon count at the tower will be sufficient to exceed the North River aerial survey-based sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 550-1,100 salmon. In addition, the cumulative coho salmon count at the Unalakleet River weir is over three times the historical average for this date. As of August 10, when the weir was removed for the season, 58,756 coho salmon had passed the weir. This is well above the average of 16,295 coho salmon by this date. Due to the high number of coho salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage and projections to exceed the upper bound of the SEG at the North River tower, an increase in the bag and possession limit for coho salmon from 4 to 10 fish is warranted. It is anticipated that the additional harvest associated with the increased bag limit will not reduce the escapement below the SEG.

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.