

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-17-19

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, June 10,
2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 15, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2019, unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-KS-R-03-19 which established king salmon nonretention areas in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks and meet objectives for king salmon management under the *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* and the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This emergency order maintains nonretention areas needed to protect Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks after June 14, 2019 and establishes a resident bag and possession limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length in the king salmon nonretention areas once they reopen as mandated by the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055).

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 33.369(d), 5 AAC 47.021(c), and 5 AAC 47.021(j)(3) are superseded and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(g)(9), (j)(7), (8), and (9), (o) and (p) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 15, through Tuesday, December 31, 2019:

5 AAC 33.369. District 1: Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

(d) In the waters of the Herring Bay Sportfish Terminal Harvest Area which includes the waters of Nichols Pass north of the latitude of Driest Point, Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Harbor Point, and Tongass Narrows south of the latitude of the Lewis Reef light;

(1) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through December 31.

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(c) In the Haines and Skagway vicinity, in Section 15-A, the waters of Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Sherman Rock as described in 5 AAC 33.200(o)(1), retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed from April 1 through December 31.

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(9) in the waters of Section 13-C southeast of a line from Nismeni Point to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.59' N. lat., 135°22.33' W. long., the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through December 31.

(j) In the Ketchikan vicinity:

(3) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays between a line from Point Eva to Cactus Point and the latitude of Point Nelson (55° 18.00' N. lat.),

(A) salmon may be taken only from August 15 – March 31;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from August 15 through December 31;

(7) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55° 56.04' N. lat., 131° 37.94' W. long., to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55° 54.28' N. lat., 131° 37. 80' W. long., and a line from Fin Point 55° 51.26' N. lat., 131°35.42' W. long. to Dress Point 55°51.15' N. lat., 131°33.75' W. long. to a line from Cactus Point to Point Eva, salmon fishing is prohibited from April 1 through December 31;

(8) in all remaining waters of District 1 and 2, as described in 5 AAC 33.200, the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through December 31;

(9) in West Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55°56.04' N. lat., 131°37.94' W. long. to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55°54.28' N. lat., 131°37. 80' W. long., and a line from Fin Point at 55°51.26' N. lat., 131°35.42' W. long. to Dress Point at 55°51.15' N. lat., 131°33.75' W. long., and to the south by a line from Indian Point at 55° 36.87' N. lat., 131°42.07' W. long. to Mike Point at 55° 37.25' N. lat., 131° 52.74' W. long.; and in the waters of southern Revillagigedo Channel enclosed from a line from Lucky Point at 55° 12.62' N. lat., 131° 16.18' W. long., to Middy Point at 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W. long., continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point at 55° 05.25' N. lat., 131° 14.57' W. long., and from Point Rosen at 55° 04.74' N lat., 131° 10.87' W. long., to Quadra Point at 55° 05.14' N. lat., 130° 59.07' W. long., and in southeast Behm Canal from Cactus Point to Eva Point,

(A) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed from June 15 through August 14;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from August 15 through December 31.

(o) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in the waters of Sections 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C, District 12, Sections 14-B and 14-C and Sections 15-B and 15-C as described in 5 AAC 33.200, the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through December 31;

(2) in the waters of Section 11-D as described in 5 AAC 33.200;

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed from April 1 through June 30;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from July 1 through December 31.

(p) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in the waters of District 8 as described in 5 AAC 47.057(d) and a portion of District 7 in the waters of Eastern Passage west of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56° 22.19' N. lat., 132° 11.75' W. long. to a point on the mainland shore at 56° 22.76' N. lat., 132° 10.62' W. long.

(A) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed from April 1 through July 14;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from July 15 through December 31;

(2) in the waters of District 5 north of line between Point Baker and a point on the shore of Kuiu Island at 56° 20.80' N. lat., 133° 50.87' W. long., District 6, District 7 excluding the waters of Eastern Passage west of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56° 22.19' N. lat., 132° 11.75' W. long. to a point on the mainland shore at 56° 22.76' N. lat., 132° 10.62' W. long., District 9 north of line between Point Ellis and Patterson Point, and District 10 as described in 5 AAC 33.200, the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through December 31.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Acting Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION: Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks are in a period of low production. Southeast Alaska king salmon escapements in 2016-2018 were the worst on record with three and two out of the eleven king salmon indicator stocks meeting escapement goals in 2016 and 2017 years, respectively. In 2018 only four of the eleven king salmon indicator stocks met escapement goals. This trend of low production is expected to continue in 2019. The Chilkat River stock has not achieved its escapement goal in 6 of the past 7 years, the King Salmon River stock has not achieved its escapement goal in 5 of the past 6 years, and the Unuk River stock has not achieved its escapement goal in 4 of the past 6 years. During the

2017/2018 Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle these stocks were identified as stocks of concern prompting the development of specific action plans that outline conservative management measures for all fisheries to reduce the harvest of these stocks. This emergency order implements the conservative management measures outlined in the king salmon action plans for the sport fishery and, additional conservative management measures to reduce harvest of all wild Southeast Alaska king salmon stocks that are in a period of low production. In addition, this emergency establishes a resident bag and possession limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, as directed by the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055) in areas closed for king salmon conservation once they reopen.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-03-19 issued January 7, 2019 is rescinded by this emergency order, but the king salmon nonretention areas enacted by E.O. 1-KS-R-03-19 occurring after June 14, 2019 are continued by this emergency order.

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-05-19 issued April 1, 2019 which established the Southeast regional king salmon bag, possession, and annual limits is only affected in that the resident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, is increased to two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, in areas previously closed to the retention of king salmon due to conservation. For the remainder of Southeast Alaska, the resident king salmon bag and possession limit remains at one fish, 28 inches or greater in length.

Emergency Orders 1-KS-E-10-19, 1-KS-C-11-19, 1-KS-B-12-19, 1-KS-A-13-19, and 1-KS-D-14-19 issued May 23, 2019 which established designated sport terminal areas to provide Alaska hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity while protecting wild Alaska king salmon are not affected by this action.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.