

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-W-04-19

Issued at: Fairbanks, Monday, July 1, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, 2019, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 3-KS-W-02-19, issued on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 and opens sport fishing for king salmon in all waters of the Unalakleet River drainage with a bag and possession limit of two fish, of which only one fish may be 20 inches or greater in length, and an annual bag limit of two fish greater than 20 inches. Bait is allowed in the Unalakleet River. This emergency order maintains the closure to sport fishing for king salmon in the Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, and Golsovia river drainages and the use of bait in these waters remains prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011 (c)(10) and 5 AAC 70.030 (f) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, 2019:

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

(c)(10) in all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, excluding the Unalakleet River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(f) In all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof, excluding the Unalakleet River drainage, the use of bait is prohibited.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
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 midpoint of the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 1,900 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 fishery in the Unalakleet River drainage is opened to at least two 36-hour periods per week, and the subsistence fishery in the marine waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6 is opened to at least two 48-hour per week, the sport fishery may be open.

The department does not have reliable inseason stock assessment information for the Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia river drainages, and therefore the closure of sport fishing for king salmon in these rivers will remain in effect. The prohibition of bait while sport fishing should minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species.

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.