

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-17-20

Issued at: Sitka, Tuesday, June 9,
2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday,
June 15, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2020, unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-KS-R-06-20, issued February 11, 2020 that established king salmon nonretention areas in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell and Ketchikan to reduce harvest of wild Alaska king salmon stocks. This action is necessary to align the resident bag limit with new regionwide regulations, provide a two-week nonretention period in the waters of Taku Inlet to protect Taku River king salmon and maintain a nonresident annual limit of three fish in the vicinity of the Unuk River as prescribed by the *Unuk River King Salmon Action Plan*. All other management actions established under the previous emergency order to protect wild Alaska king salmon remain unchanged.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 33.369(d), 5 AAC 47.021(e)(2) and 5 AAC 47.021(j)(3) are superseded and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(c)(1), (2), (g)(10), (j)(7), (8), (9) and (10), (l) and (m) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 15 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020:

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) 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 June 14.

(2) the resident bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through August 14.

(3) the resident bag and possession limit is three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from August 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:

(1) Chilkat Inlet, north of the ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point,

(A) is closed to king salmon sport fishing from April 1 through July 15;

(B) 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 July 16 through December 31;

(2) 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.

(e) In the waters of District 11, as described in 5 AAC 33.200(k)

(2) in a year when there is no allowable catch of Taku River king salmon, in the waters north of a line from Cooper Point to the mouth of Dorothy Creek, king salmon may be taken only from July 1— March 31;

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(10) 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.,

(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 June 14;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is three 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.), salmon may be taken only from August 15 – March 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 January 1 through December 31;

(8) in all remaining waters of District 1, as described in 5 AAC 33.200,

(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 June 14;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through August 14;

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

(D) the nonresident bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through August 14

(E) the nonresident annual limit is three king salmon, 28" or greater in length from June 15 through August 14.

(9) in waters of District 2, as described in 5 AAC 33.200,

(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 June 14;

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

(10) 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 April 1 through August 14;

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

(o) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in the waters of District 11, District 12, Sections 14-B and 14-C and Sections 15-B and 15-C as described in 5 AAC 33.200,

(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 June 14;

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

(3) in the marine waters of Taku Inlet north of a line from Point Bishop to Point Greely

(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 June 30

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

(m) 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 three 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,

(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 June 14;

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

(3) in the terminal waters of Anita Bay as described in 5 AAC 33.383(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 May 31.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Acting Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION: Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks continue to be in a period of low production. Southeast Alaska king salmon escapements observed from 2016 to 2019 included levels below the lower bounds of escapement goals for many of the eleven monitored king salmon indicator systems. The numbers of king salmon indicator stocks meeting escapement goals from 2016 to 2019 were two (2016), three (2017), four (2018), and seven (2019). Despite better performance in 2019, the trend of low production is expected to continue in 2020 for many of the eleven monitored systems, including the Taku, Stikine, and Chilkat River stocks which are projected to have escapements below the lower bound of the escapement goal ranges for these systems. The Chilkat River stock has not achieved its escapement goal in six of the past eight years, the King Salmon River stock has not achieved its escapement goal in six of the past eight years, and the Unuk River stock has not achieved its escapement goal in four of the past eight 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. The Taku, Stikine, and Chickamin River stocks have not achieved the lower bound of escapement goals in each of the last four years. 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.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-06-20, issued February 11, 2020, is rescinded by this emergency order.

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-16-20 established resident and nonresident king salmon bag and possession limits and a nonresident king salmon annual limit as per the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* based on the 2020 winter troll catch per unit effort is not affected by this emergency order.

Emergency Orders 1-KS-C-13-20, and 1-KS-A-14-20 issued May 26, 2020; and Emergency Order 1-KS-E-18-20 issued June 9, 2020 which established designated sport terminal areas, in the Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg/Wrangell and Ketchikan management areas to provide Alaska hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity while protecting wild Alaska king salmon remain in effect.

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.