

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-52-20

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, August 21, 2020

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 22, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 2-RS-46-20, issued on Monday, August 3, 2020. This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to six fish, of which three fish may be coho salmon for the waters of Fish Creek open to fishing for salmon. In addition, this emergency order continues to allow sport fishing in Fish Creek 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, and 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The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (5)(A) are superseded by this emergency order.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 beginning 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 22 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020:

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 22 – 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 no more than three fish per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek is 15,000-45,000 fish. Approximately 64,400 fish were counted this season, exceeding the SEG. The SEG for coho salmon in Fish Creek is 1,200 -- 6,000 fish. As of August 14, about 4,500 fish had passed the weir, with a projected escapement of more than 6,000 fish. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for sockeye and coho salmon 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-RS-2-46-20, which increased the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, to six fish, of which only two may be a coho salmon and increased the numbers of days open to fishing to seven days per week on Fish Creek beginning August 4, 2020, is rescinded.

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.