

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-C-12-21

Issued at: Petersburg, Monday,
May 3, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
July 31, 2021, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order establishes king salmon bag, possession, and size limits to allow opportunity to harvest surplus Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in terminal areas near Petersburg and Wrangell during the time when hatchery-produced king salmon are available.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(m)(4) and (5), and 5 AAC 47.023(h)(9) are added and the provision of 5 AAC 47.023(h)(1)(D) is superseded by this emergency order. The following provisions are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021:

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.

(m) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(4) in the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in section 6-A north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island (56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long.) and south of 56° 46' N. lat.

(A) the resident bag and possession limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length;

(B) the nonresident bag and possession limit is two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length;

(C) king salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

(5) in the marine waters adjacent to City Creek between a point on the Mitkof Island shore, at 56° 47.83' N. lat., 132° 51.57' W. long. to 56° 48.30' N. lat., 132° 51.50' W. long. to 56° 49.77' N. lat., 132° 55.78' W. long. and back to the Mitkof Island shore at Hungry Point (56° 49.36' N. lat., 132° 56.38' W. long.) from June 15 through July 14:

(A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon of any size.

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in Blind Slough, upstream from a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point,
(D) king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

(9) in City Creek, from June 15 through July 14; the bag and possession limit is one king salmon of any size.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Patrick Fowler
Petersburg/Wrangell
Area Management Biologist

This emergency order will provide sport fishing opportunity for Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon in areas where they are expected to return in surplus and in accordance with the *District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.381).

In 2021, the projected Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon return to the terminal area of Blind Slough/Wrangell Narrows is 3,700 adult king salmon. When the projected adult king salmon return to the terminal harvest area is at least 2,000 fish but less than 4,000 fish, the *District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.381) instructs the department to establish a bag and possession limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length from June 1 through July 31 within the boundaries of the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area. In 2021 the regional king salmon regulations established under emergency order 1-KS-R-04-21 include a resident bag and possession limit of three king salmon greater than 28 inches. To ensure resident opportunity is not more restrictive inside this hatchery area, where the intent of the management plan is to provide additional sport fishing opportunity during these abundance levels, the resident bag and possession limit for king salmon over 28 inches in length has been established identical to the regional regulations.

Approximately 600 Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon are expected to return to the City Creek release site in 2021. A small area has been defined to allow fishing opportunity while limiting the incidental harvest of Southeast Alaska wild stocks. No broodstock collection or cost recovery is conducted in this area.

The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055) authorizes the department to repeal the nonresident angler annual limit in hatchery terminal harvest areas.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-04-21 established resident and nonresident king salmon bag and possession limits and a nonresident king salmon annual limit per the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management plan based on the 2020 winter troll catch per unit effort.

This emergency order increases sport fishing opportunity for the Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area and the City Creek release site previously affected by emergency order 1-KS-R-05-21 which established areas and times when king salmon may not be retained in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell and Ketchikan. Emergency order 1-KS-R-05-21 remains otherwise unaffected.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270; and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley Petersburg, AK 99833-0667 (907) 772-3801.