

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-5-57-22

Issued at: Dillingham, Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 21, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, in all fresh and salt waters of Bristol Bay that are currently open to retention of king salmon, to one fish. In fresh waters, the bag and possession limit for king salmon under 20 inches in length remains at 10 fish, no annual limit; and in salt water the bag and possession limit for king salmon under 20 inches in length remains at three fish, no annual limit. Up to four king salmon recorded before Thursday, July 21, 2022, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the one king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, annual limit that may be harvested on or after July 21.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.020. (1)(A)(i) and (1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 21 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2022:

5 AAC 67.020. General provisions for the seasons, and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Bristol Bay Area.

(1) king salmon:

(A) in fresh waters, as follows:

(i) 20 inches or greater in length; may be taken only from July 21 through July 31; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish 20 inches or greater in length taken from fresh waters or salt waters; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

(B) in salt waters: may be taken only from July 21 through July 31; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish 20 inches or greater in length taken from fresh waters or salt waters; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Lee K. Borden,
Bristol Bay Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Nushagak River king salmon sport fishery was restricted to no retention by Emergency Order 2-KS-5-51-22. All other indicators of abundance are signaling poor returns of king salmon to Bristol Bay; therefore, action is warranted to reduce sport harvest in the fresh and salt waters of Bristol Bay in the interest of allowing additional king salmon to arrive on the spawning grounds.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-KS-5-51-22 issued July 11 prohibits the retention of king salmon of any size and prohibits the use of bait in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage effective Wednesday, July 13 through July 31. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure is allowed. This emergency order remains in effect.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.