

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-54-23

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, August 7, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 9,
2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
August 20, 2023, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, to six fish per day and twelve fish in possession in that area of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.122 (3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 9 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 20, 2023:

5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(3) the following bag and possession limits apply:

(A) in waters of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing, including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth, and the Russian River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls; salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of six fish, possession limit of 12 fish, of which only one per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Jenny Gates
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through Sunday, August 6, 2023, a total of 52,767 sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir, located upstream of the falls. ADF&G estimates that the escapement will exceed the upper bound of the late-run Russian River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 44,000 – 85,000 sockeye salmon. Based

on this information, it is appropriate to liberalize the fishery to harvest sockeye salmon in excess of the escapement goal by allowing anglers the opportunity to harvest six sockeye salmon a day in the Russian and Upper Kenai rivers.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.