

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-5-35-23

Issued at: Dillingham, Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 30, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon from five to 10 fish in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage. The bag and possession limit for other salmon, except king and sockeye salmon, remains at five fish. These limits are in combination with the more liberal limit for sockeye salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022(g) (8) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 30 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023:

5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area.

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

(7) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 10 fish; of which only five per day and five in possession may be chum, pink, or coho salmon in combination;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____


Lee K. Borden
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The escapement of sockeye salmon in the Nushagak River is expected to exceed the escapement goal of 370,000 – 900,000 fish. Through June 27, a total of 887,215 sockeye salmon have been counted at the Portage Creek sonar. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003 *Emergency Order Authority* (2)(A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the goal range. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River sport fishery.

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.