

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-KS-5-41-23

**Issued at:** Dillingham, Wednesday, July 5, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 7, 2023

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order reduces the bag, possession, and annual limits for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, in the waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage to one per day and one in possession, 20 inches or greater in length, with an annual limit of two fish, only one of which may be 28 inches or greater in length. The bag and possession limit for king salmon under 20 inches in length remains at five fish; no annual limit. Up to two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but under 28 inches in length recorded before Friday, July 7, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, two fish annual limit that may be harvested on or after July 7. King salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested prior to July 7 count against the one fish annual limit for king salmon 28 inches or greater in length.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022(g)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 7 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 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:

(1) the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish; the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is two fish, only one of which may be 28 inches or greater in length; the bag and possession limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length is five fish; up to two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but under 28 inches in length recorded before Friday, July 7, on the harvest portion of an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card do not count against the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that may be harvested on or after July 7; king salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested prior to July 7 do count against the one fish annual limit for king salmon 28 inches or greater in length; after taking and retaining a bag limit of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish with bait for the remainder of that day in the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

  
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Lee Borden,

Bristol Bay Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The sustainable escapement goal for Nushagak River king salmon is 55,000 – 120,000 fish. Through July 4, 2023, an estimated 22,277 king salmon have passed the sonar at Portage Creek. With the run currently projecting below the escapement goal range, action is warranted to reduce sport harvest. Therefore, it is justified to restrict the Nushagak River drainage king salmon sport fishery in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

**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.