

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-63-23

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 19, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Jim Creek to sport fishing for salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 ACC 60.122 (8)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 19, 2023:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(8) in the Knik River drainage, including Jim Creek and the Eklutna Tailrace, as follows:

(F) except as specified in (B) of this paragraph, in the Jim Creek drainage, downstream to the Knik River and continuing downstream, on the Knik River to the boundary of the closed waters described in (A) of this paragraph, sport fishing is open for all finfish species except salmon, except that from August 1 – December 31, sport fishing is only open from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily, and is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for Jim Creek is 250 – 700 coho salmon as indexed post season by an annual foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a tributary within the Jim Creek drainage. The run of coho salmon to Jim Creek appears to be weak as indicated by low daily weir counts, low overall fishing success, and observations by staff. The coho salmon run is tracking well below years the weir was operated and the goal was achieved. As of August 15, a cumulative weir count of about 240 coho salmon is similar to the count by this date during 2016 when the SEG was missed. The remaining run must be conserved in order to achieve the escapement goal for this system.

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.