

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-C-03-24

Issued at: Petersburg, Tuesday,
February 20, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday,
June 1, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
Wednesday, July 31, 2024, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order establishes king salmon bag, possession, and size limits to allow opportunity to harvest Alaska hatchery king salmon in the terminal area of Wrangell Narrows and closes Blind Slough upstream of a line from Blind Point to Anchor Point to sport fishing for king salmon from June 1 – July 31. In Blind Slough from June 1 – July 31 king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately; while fishing for other species only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(m)(1) are added and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(h)(1)(A) and (C) are superseded by this emergency order. The following provisions are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, 2024:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(m) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in section 6-A north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island (56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long.) and south of 56° 46' N. lat.,

(A) the bag and possession limit is two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length;

(B) king salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit;

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in Blind Slough, upstream from a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point,

(A) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used from November 16 – July 31;

(C) sport fishing for king salmon is open from August 1 – May 31; bag and possession limits, as follows:

(i) 28 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of two fish;

(ii) less than 28 inches in length; bag and possession limit of two fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jeffrey Rice
Petersburg/Wrangell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: In 2024, the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal area of Blind Slough/Wrangell Narrows is 1,400 adult king salmon. In accordance with 5 AAC 33.381 *District 6:Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan*, when the projected adult king salmon return to the terminal harvest area is at least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a bag and possession limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length, from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon fishery in Wrangell Narrows and the sport fishery in Blind Slough will be closed.

If inseason information indicates a surplus of king salmon returning to the Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough terminal harvest area, these management actions to protect Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon broodstock may be rescinded.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270; and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley Petersburg, AK 99833-0667 (907) 772-3801.