

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-31-06

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, July 24, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for sockeye salmon in all waters of the Kenai River drainage open to salmon fishing except in the Russian River and the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River, including that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing downstream to the power line. This emergency order becomes effective at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 25, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006. This closure prohibits catch-and-release fishing for sockeye salmon. All sockeye salmon caught in the area closed to sockeye salmon fishing may not be possessed or retained; all sockeye salmon caught must be released immediately.

Sockeye salmon fishing in the fly-fishing-only waters of the Russian River and in the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River, including that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing downstream to the power line remains open to retention of sockeye salmon; bag and possession limit of 3 fish, of which only two could be coho salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA. (a)(3)(A)(iii) and (a)(3)(B) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 25, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006:

5 AAC 56.023 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA

(a)(3) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) the Kenai River drainage, except in the Russian River and the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River, is closed to fishing for sockeye salmon, bag and possession limit is three fish in combination, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed; in addition; the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish; in that portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing downstream to the power line the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sockeye salmon passage estimate, as measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19, is approximately 144,133 fish through July 22. Present escapement rates of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River, coupled with the run strength assessment of the return of this stock, indicate that insufficient numbers of sockeye salmon will reach the Kenai River to provide for the optimum spawning escapement without eliminating fishery exploitation. The Cook Inlet commercial fishery has been substantially restricted and the Kenai River personal use fishery and educational fishery have been closed to conserve Kenai River sockeye salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED

Emergency Order 2-RS-1-27-06, which reduced the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon from three per day and in possession to one per day and in possession in the Kenai River watershed except for in the Russian River and the Kenai River “fly-fishing-only waters” at the confluence of the Russian River, is superceded by this Emergency Order.

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.