

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-46-06

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, August 18, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, August 21, 2006

Expiration Date: 8:00 p.m., Monday,
September 4, 2006, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the season for sport fishing for sockeye salmon in a portion of the Kenai River. This emergency order applies to the waters of the Kenai River from the Russian River ferry crossing downstream to the powerline crossing over the Kenai River. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 21, 2006 through 8:00 p.m. Monday, September 4, 2006.

In addition, the bag and possession limits for salmon 16" or greater in length are increased to six fish, only two per day and in possession may be coho salmon. Additionally, a total of six pink salmon may be retained daily. Since the fly-fishing-only restriction expires by regulation at 11:59 p.m. August 20, therefore, anglers may use only one unbaited single-hook artificial lure, with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023 SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE. (d)(1)(F) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., August 21, 2006 through 8:00 p.m., September 4, 2006:

5 AAC 56.023. SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE.

(d)(1)(F) from 12:01 a.m., Monday, August 21, 2006, through 8:00 p.m., Monday, September 4, 2006, the waters of the Kenai River near the confluence of the Russian River, from the powerline crossing on the Kenai River upstream to the Ferry Crossing, are open to sport fishing for sockeye salmon; bag and possession limit for salmon (other than king salmon) 16 inches or longer is six, of which only two per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Larry Marsh,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

A total of 1,119,181 sockeye salmon have passed the sonar station on the Kenai River through midnight, August 16. The upper end of the Kenai River optimal escapement goal of 500,000 - 1,000,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded. More than 238,000 sockeye salmon have passed the sonar station on the Kenai River over the last ten days (since August 5). These passage rates indicate a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon may be available for sport anglers fishing in the Kenai River "fly-fishing-only area" after the normal sockeye salmon sport fishing closure date for this area on August 20. Additional sport fishing opportunity for sockeye salmon in this area should not impact the Russian River sockeye salmon late run as the waters of the Russian River, the Russian River Sanctuary and surrounding waters will remain closed to fishing for sockeye salmon. A total of 70,405 late-run sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir through midnight, August 16. The lower end of the Russian River late run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal of 30,000 – 110,000 fish has been met and the upper end of the goal will likely not be exceeded.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.