

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-16-15.

Issued at Sitka, Friday, June 26, 2015.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday,
July 1, 2015.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, May
2, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-08-15 issued on April 30, 2015. This emergency order sets the king salmon bag and possession limits and other king salmon management measures used to manage the sport fishery at king salmon abundance index (AI) levels between 1.2 through 1.5 according to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.055.). The king salmon regulations through May 2, 2016 are a resident bag limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length; a nonresident angler bag limit of one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length and a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length. In addition a resident sport angler may use two rods from October through March. King salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30, 2015 will apply to the three fish annual limit. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2015 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 2, 2016

REGULATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-08-15. Under this emergency order the provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (20) are added by this emergency order. These provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2015 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 2, 2016:

5 AAC 47.020 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(20) king salmon:

- (A) the resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;
- (B) the nonresident bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length,
- (C) the nonresident annual limit is three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;
- (D) a resident sport fish angler may use two rods from October through March.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.055.) stipulates the Southeast Alaska regional king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and other management measures will be based upon the preseason king salmon abundance index (AI) as determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission. The 2015 preseason abundance index was not available prior to May 1 and required that the 2015 Southeast Alaska sport fishery regional king salmon regulations be based on the previous year AI, as mandated by the plan. Technical discussions among the CTC members have continued since May 1 between Pacific Salmon Commission representatives of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Canada concerning an AI that accurately reflects the true abundance of king salmon along the Pacific west coast in 2015. Although a preseason AI has not been bilaterally agreed to by Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) members of the Chinook Technical Committee, the PSC Commissioner for Alaska has committed to the other Treaty Parties that management of the Southeast Alaska king salmon fisheries will be managed for an all gear harvest based on the 2015 draft AI (calibration 1503) of 1.45, with the understanding that the model that is used to calculate the AI will be reviewed to address the Alaska delegation's concerns with the inaccuracy of the model.

The reduction of the resident bag limit from three to two king salmon and a reduction of the nonresident king salmon annual limit from 6 to 3 fish coupled with the conservative king salmon regulations enacted by emergency order in the Juneau, Ketchikan and Haines management areas earlier in the season will likely achieve the management objectives for the sport fishery.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-08-15 which set the 2015 Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery regulations as prescribed under the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan when an AI was not available.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.