

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-2-46-20

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, August 3, 2020

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to six fish, of which only two fish may be coho salmon for the waters of Fish Creek open to fishing for salmon. In addition, this emergency order allows sport fishing in Fish Creek seven days per week, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. Other Knik Arm waters, including the Little Susitna River, Eklutna Tailrace, and Jim, Wasilla, and Cottonwood creeks remain unaffected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122 (5)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 4 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020:

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.

(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) from August 4 – December 31, the waters from ADF&G regulatory markers located at its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, are open to sport fishing from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed; bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length is six fish, of which no more than two fish per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek is 15,000-45,000 fish. As of August 1, 2020, approximately 36,393 fish had passed the weir with a projected escapement of more than

45,000 fish. Therefore, it is warranted to increase fishing time, and bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon. The SEG for coho salmon in Fish Creek is 1,200-6,000 fish and weir counts to date indicate nearly 700 coho salmon have passed the weir at about 10% of the historical run. It is not anticipated that increased sport harvest of coho salmon as a result of increased fishing time directed at sockeye salmon harvest will lower the escapement of coho salmon below desired escapement levels for Fish Creek.

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.