

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-29-23

Issued at: Soldotna, Thursday, June 22, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 24, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 14, 2023,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-27-23 and increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, to nine fish per day and eighteen fish in possession in that area of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.122(3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 24 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 14, 2023:

5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(3)(A) in waters of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing, including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth, and the Russian River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls; salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of nine fish; possession limit of 18 fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be a coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Jenny Gates
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through Wednesday, June 21, 2023 approximately 30,430 sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir, located upstream of the falls. The escapement will exceed the early-run Russian River sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) of 22,000 – 42,000 sockeye salmon within the next few days. Based on this information, it is appropriate to liberalize the sport fishery to harvest sockeye salmon in excess of the escapement goal by allowing anglers the opportunity to harvest nine sockeye salmon a day in the Russian and Upper Kenai Rivers.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-27-23 which increased the limits of sockeye salmon to six per day, twelve in possession in the Russian River and a section of the mainstem Kenai River from the inlet of Skilak Lake to the ADF&G marker 300 yards above Sportsman’s Landing, is superseded.

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.