

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-C-19-24

Issued at: Petersburg, Thursday,
June 13, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday,
June 15, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
Wednesday, July 31, 2024, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 1-KS-C-03-24 issued February 20, 2024, and reduces harvest opportunity for king salmon in the Wrangell Narrows terminal harvest area. Beginning Saturday, June 15 the bag and possession limit will change from two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length to a bag and possession limit of one king salmon of any size. Additionally, the nonresident annual limit will now apply in this area. The closure of the Blind Slough terminal harvest area, initially implemented by Emergency Order 1-KS-C-03-24, continues to remain in effect.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(m)(7) are added by this emergency order and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(h)(1) are superseded. The following provisions are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 15 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, 2024:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(m) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(7) in the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in section 6-A north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island (56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long.) and south of 56° 46' N. lat.,

(A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon of any size;

(B) king salmon harvested in this area count toward the nonresident annual limit. a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in Blind Slough, upstream from a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point,

(A) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used from November 16 – July 31;

(C) sport fishing for king salmon is open from August 1 – May 31; bag and possession limits, as follows:

(i) 28 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of two fish;

(ii) less than 28 inches in length; bag and possession limit of two fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jeffrey Rice
Petersburg/Wrangell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: In 2024, the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal area of Blind Slough/Wrangell Narrows is 1,400 adult king salmon. In accordance with 5 AAC 33.381 *District 6:Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan*, when the projected adult king salmon return to the terminal harvest area is at least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a bag and possession limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length, from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon fishery in Wrangell Narrows and the sport fishery in Blind Slough will be closed.

Inseason information indicates a weak return of king salmon to the terminal area and additional management action is warranted to ensure broodstock goals are achieved. This reduction in bag and possession limit will help ensure broodstock goals are achieved while providing limited harvest opportunity. Further restrictions may be necessary as additional inseason information becomes available.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-KS-C-03-24 which initially established sport fishing regulations for king salmon in the Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough terminal harvest area is superseded by this emergency order.

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-08-24 established the regional bag, possession and annual limits for the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery for the 2024 season and remains unaffected outside the time and area specified by this emergency order.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270; and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley Petersburg, AK 99833-0667 (907) 772-3801.