

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-8-23-24

Issued at: Anchorage, Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 21, 2024

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon from three to 12 fish in the fresh waters downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road to the saltwater markers. This emergency order also increases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon from six to 12 fish in the saltwater of Resurrection Bay north of a point from Caines Head to the northern point of Thumb Cove.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (9)(D) and 5 AAC 58.022 (b)(3)(A)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 21 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, 2024:

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(9) Resurrection Bay drainages:

(D) notwithstanding (B) of this paragraph, the waters downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road are open to sport fishing for salmon, except king salmon, from June 16 – December 31; only single-hook, artificial lures may be used; the bag and possession limit is 12 salmon per day, of which only two may be coho salmon;

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(b)(3)(A) in the salt waters north of a line between Cape Resurrection and Aialik Cape (Resurrection Bay Terminal Harvest Area):

(ii) salmon, other than king salmon: bag and possession limit is six fish, of which six per day and in possession may be coho salmon; except that in the marine waters north of a line from Caines Head to the north point of Thumb Cove, the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is 12 fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brittany Blain-Roth
Brittany Blain-Roth
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Bear Lake sockeye salmon has a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700 – 8,300 fish and is managed to pass 12,200 sockeye salmon past the weir at Bear Lake, which meets both the SEG and hatchery broodstock requirements (2,942 fish). Through June 18, 2024, 10,761 sockeye salmon have passed the Bear Creek weir, with sockeye salmon still entering the river. The SEG has been exceeded and the brood goal is projected to be exceeded. To provide additional sport fishing opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon surplus to the escapement goal, as authorized in 5 AAC 75.003 (2)(A) and (B), increasing the bag and possession limit is warranted.

DISTRIBUTION:

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