

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-SS-1-58-24

**Issued at Homer:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24,  
2024

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31,  
2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for coho salmon to 1 fish in the Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast salt waters, excluding Resurrection Bay.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022(a)(2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24, 2024 through Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

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

(a)(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit of six fish of which only one per day and in possession may be coho salmon; no size limit;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

  
Mike Booz  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

Based on the performance indicators of both freshwater and saltwater sport fisheries from throughout Southcentral Alaska, this year's coho salmon run is well below average and restrictions or closures have already been issued for the Northern Cook Inlet area, Anchorage Bowl Area, and Valdez. Coho salmon stock assessment on the Kenai Peninsula is limited to a radio telemetry project on the Kenai River and a few escapement monitoring projects. Currently, there are no escapement goals for any coho salmon stocks on the Kenai Peninsula. On the Anchor River, coho salmon escapement has been fully enumerated intermittently since the late 1980's and consistently in recent years since 2019. Through August 20, the 2024 Anchor River coho salmon cumulative count is 580 which is approximately 61% below the historical average count and 26% below the recent 5-year average count for this date. Given the lack of additional information, a precautionary approach is warranted for the remainder of the coho salmon run.

### 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.