

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-61-24

Issued at Palmer: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30,
2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16" greater in length, to three fish per day and six in possession to three fish per day and six in possession, of which only two fish per day and four fish in possession may be coho salmon in the fresh waters of the West Cook Inlet area.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 62.120(2)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24 through Monday, September 30, 2024.

5 AAC 62.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.

(2) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 – September 30; bag limit is three fish per day, and six in possession, of which only two fish per day and four in possession may be coho salmon; if retention of coho salmon is allowed under this chapter, a coho salmon 16" or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Daryl Lescanec

Daryl Lescanec
Palmer Fisheries 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. Currently there is no coho salmon stock assessment in West Cook Inlet. Given the lack of additional information and the potential to shift effort to these stocks with other coho salmon fishery restrictions, a precautionary approach is warranted for the remainder of the coho salmon run in West Cook Inlet.

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.