

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-52-24

Issued at: Anchorage, Thursday, August 15, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 19, 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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 salmon, other than king salmon, to six fish per day and 12 fish in possession, of which only three per day, and 6 in possession may be a coho salmon in the Valdez vicinity - Terminal Harvest Area.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023(1)(B)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 19 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(1) the following special provisions apply to salmon, other than king salmon:

(B) within the following terminal harvest areas, the bag limit is six fish; and the possession limit is 12 fish:

(ii) Valdez vicinity: the salt waters north of a line from Point Freemantle to Rocky Point, excluding Jack Bay, Sawmill Bay, and Galena Bay; the bag limit is six fish and the possession limit is 12 fish, of which only a bag limit of three and a possession limit of 6 may be coho salmon.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brittany Blain-Roth

Brittany Blain-Roth
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Valdez vicinity supports small wild runs of coho salmon and has a large hatchery component of coho salmon returning to the Solomon Gulch Hatchery. Operated by Valdez Fisheries Development Association, this hatchery collects broodstock from coho salmon returning to the Valdez Terminal Harvest Area to provide coho salmon sport fishing opportunities in the Valdez vicinity. Historically, returns of coho salmon to the hatchery have been weaker on even years. While coho salmon have not entered the hatchery raceways at this time, reports from the saltwater sport fishery are indicating that the 2024 return of coho salmon are going to be below average. This could lead to an insufficient amount of coho salmon available to meet the hatchery broodstock goal of 2,500–3,000 fish. Due to indications of a weaker coho salmon abundance in nearby PWS salt waters, a bag and possession limit reduction for coho salmon in the Valdez Terminal Harvest Area 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.