

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-6-60-24

Issued at: Anchorage, 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2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 salmon, other than king salmon, to six fish per day, of which only one fish per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon in the waters of Prince William Sound excluding the Whittier, Cordova, Valdez, and Chenega Terminal Harvest Areas.

REGULATION:

The provision of 5 AAC 55.020(a)(3) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

5 AAC 55.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits; and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(a)(3) salmon, other than king salmon, may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag limit of six fish; possession limit of 12 fish, of which only one fish per day and in possession may be coho salmon; no size limit;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brittany Blain-Roth
Brittany Blain-Roth
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Prince William Sound area supports many small wild runs of coho salmon and has a hatchery component of stocked coho salmon returning to the area. Based on sport fishery performance indicators in salt waters, restrictions have already been implemented in the Valdez Terminal Harvest Area. There are no escapement goals specific to coho salmon in Prince William Sound proper, but based on poor fishery performance, coho salmon are returning in poor numbers to the area. This trend for coho salmon runs are similar across the Southcentral region, resulting in several restrictions and closure for both wild and hatchery runs. To protect wild coho salmon runs, restrictions are necessary in both the salt and fresh waters of this area.

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.