

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-8-59-24

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2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 three fish per day, and three in possession may be a coho salmon in the salt waters of Resurrection Bay north of a line from Aialik Cape to Cape Resurrection. In the salt waters south of a line between Cape Resurrection and Aialik Cape bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is six fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be coho salmon. In addition, bag limit for coho salmon in the freshwater drainages in Resurrection Bay is reduced to one coho salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(9)(D) and 5 AAC 58.022 (b)(3)(A)(ii) and (b)(3)(B)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order.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 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 three salmon per day, of which only one may be a 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) in waters east of the longitude of Gore Point (150° 57.85' W. long.), to the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W. long.), and north of the latitude of Cape Douglas (58° 51.10' N. lat.):

(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 three per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

(B) in the salt waters south of a line between Cape Resurrection and Aialik Cape:

(ii) salmon, other than king salmon: bag and possession limit is six fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brittany Blain-Roth
Brittany Blain-Roth
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Resurrection Bay and the Seward area supports small wild runs of coho salmon and has a large hatchery component of coho salmon that return to Bear Creek and the Seward Lagoon. The Trail Lakes hatchery collects broodstock from returning coho salmon for stocking Bear Lake while also supporting the William Jack Hernandez Hatchery with coho salmon to stock the Seward Lagoon. Coho salmon returning to Bear Lake are managed for an inriver escapement of 300 coho salmon and an additional 600 coho salmon are collected to meet all egg take needs. While these fish are just starting to return to area streams, fishery performance indicators are that it is a poor return of coho salmon to Resurrection Bay. To protect wild coho salmon returns in the Resurrection Bay drainages and to ensure enough broodstock through the hatchery for future returns, restrictions are necessary in both the salt and fresh waters of this area. In addition, 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 to the saltwater sport fishery are 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.