

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-4-64-24

Issued at: Kodiak, Monday, September 23, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the American River drainage to sport fishing for coho salmon. Coho salmon may not be retained or possessed and any coho salmon caught incidentally while fishing for other species must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in the American River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022(b)(16) and the provisions of 5 AAC 64.030(g) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 25 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

(b)(16) the American River drainage is closed to sport fishing for coho salmon; coho salmon may not be possessed or retained; coho salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(g) The use of bait is prohibited in the American River drainage.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Mark Witteveen,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The lower bound sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for coho salmon in the American River drainage is 400 fish and is based on post-season foot surveys of the drainage. Recent drone and foot surveys of the drainage counted approximately 30 coho salmon. Despite having a strong run in 2023, the American River coho salmon count has fallen below the SEG numerous times in the last 10 years. With low counts of coho salmon so far this season, it is not anticipated that the SEG will be achieved, so it is warranted to close the river to sport fishing for coho salmon.

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.