

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-PS-W-012-24

Issued at: Fairbanks, Monday, July 1, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 15, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the sport fish bag and possession limit for pink salmon from 10 to 20 fish in the Unalakleet River drainage in Northwest Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011(c)(9)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 3 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 15, 2024:

5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area.

(c)(9) in the Unalakleet River drainage,

(C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 20 fish, of which only four fish, in combination, may be coho, chum, and sockeye salmon;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____



Brendan Scanlon
Northwest and North Slope Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Unalakleet River drainage can experience large even-year pink salmon escapements. The North River, a tributary of the Unalakleet River, has a lower bound sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 25,000 pink salmon. Through June 30, the North River counting tower has passed 12,909 pink salmon. While still early in the run, projections indicate a run in excess of 115,000 pink salmon to the North River. In addition, aerial surveys flown on June 27 observed 300,000 pink salmon within the Unalakleet River drainage with schools of fish holding downstream of the North River as well. To provide additional sport fishing opportunity to harvest pink salmon surplus to the escapement goal, as authorized under 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A), an increase in the bag and possession limit for pink salmon from 10 to 20 fish is warranted.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.