SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 01-KS-C-06-25

Issued at: Petersburg, Thursday,

March 6, 2025

Effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday,

Date: May 15, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2025, unless superseded by

subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order establishes king salmon season dates, bag, possession, and size limits to allow opportunity to harvest Alaska hatchery king salmon in Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area from May 15 – August 15. Sport fishing is open to residents only, in the fresh waters upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point to a line at Blind River Rapids. Sport fishing is closed upstream of a line at Blind River Rapids to a line upstream of Crystal Creek. The nonresident king salmon annual limit for the Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area is two and is additive to the regional nonresident king salmon annual limit.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(m)(1) and 5 AAC 47.023(h)(9) are added and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(h)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. The following provisions are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, May 15 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2025:

- 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.
- (m) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:
- (1) in the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in section 6-A north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island (56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long.) and south of 56° 46' N. lat.,
 - (A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon, any size
 - (B) the nonresident annual limit is two king salmon, any size
 - (C) king salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit established by 5 AAC 47.055.
- 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska Area.
- (h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:
- (1) in Blind Slough, upstream from a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point, to a line at Blind River Rapids,
 - (A) only unbaited, artificial lures may be used from November 16 May 14 and August 16 September 14;

- (B) a person may not intentionally snag, attempt to snag, or retain a salmon that is hooked other than in the mouth, except during periods established by emergency order;
 - (C) sport fishing for king salmon is open from May 15 August 15;
 - (i) the resident bag and possession limit is one king salmon, any size;
 - (ii) closed to nonresidents;

(9) in Blind Slough, upstream from a line at 56° 37.97' N. lat., 132° 53.47' W. long., to 56° 37.97' N. lat., 132° 53.63' W. long., upstream to a line at 56° 36.87' N. lat., 132° 49.40' W. long.; to 56° 36.82' N. lat., 132° 49.40' W. long.; is closed to sport fishing from May 15 through August 15;

Doug Vincent-Lang Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jeffrey Rice Petersburg/Wrangell Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: In February of 2025, the Board of Fisheries adopted proposal 179 as amended by RC 162 which modified 5 AAC 33.381 District 6: Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan, which directs the management of the sport fishery in the terminal area according to the projected run of adult king salmon. In 2025, the projected run of adult king salmon to the terminal area of Blind Slough/Wrangell Narrows is 1,700 king salmon. In accordance with the revised management plan, when the projected run of adult king salmon to the terminal harvest area is at least 1,000 but less than 2,000 fish, the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows will be open to sport fishing for king salmon, with a bag and possession limit of one king salmon any size, from May 15 through August 15. The freshwater portion of the terminal area from a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at Blind River Rapids will be open to residents only. Upstream from a line at Blind River Rapids to a line upstream of Crystal Creek will be closed to sport fishing.

Sport fish management measures may be modified in response to inseason information indicating king salmon returns are stronger or weaker than expected.

<u>DISTRIBUTION:</u> The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270; and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley Petersburg, AK 99833-0667 (907) 772-3801.