

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-A-12-22

Issued at: Ketchikan, Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday
June 1, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, August 14, 2022 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order liberalizes regulations in four Ketchikan designated terminal harvest areas to target hatchery king salmon returning to the Deer Mountain Hatchery, Whitman Lake Hatchery, Neets Bay Hatchery, and the Carroll Inlet remote release site.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(j)(11), (12), (13) and (14) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 14, 2022:

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.

(j) In the Ketchikan vicinity:

(11) in the waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of the eastern most tip of Bug Island from June 15 through August 14:

- (A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (B) the nonresident annual harvest limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(12) in the waters of Thomas Basin seaward of the Stedman Street Bridge to the breakwater from June 1 through June 14:

- (A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (B) the nonresident annual harvest limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(13) in the waters of George and Carroll Inlets north of a line from Mountain Point at 55°17.57' N. lat., 131°32.41' W. long., to Cutter Rocks Light at 55°17.34' N. lat., 131°31.47' W. long., to 55°17.57' N. lat., 131°28.18' W. long., and all waters of George Inlet and Carroll Inlet are open from June 8 through June 14:

- (A) the bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (B) the nonresident annual harvest limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(14) in the waters of Herring Bay west of a line from the southernmost entrance of Hole-In-The-Wall harbor at 55°19.11' N. lat., 131°31.18' W. long. to ADF&G markers located ½ mile north of Whitman Creek (signed and painted rocks) at 55°20.12' N. lat., 131°30.12' W. long., to the fresh/salt water boundary signs located at the mouth of Herring Cove Creek are open from June 1 through July 31:

- (A) the bag and possession limit is three king salmon, with no size limit; and,
- (B) king salmon harvested in the terminal harvest area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Kelly Reppert
Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: The Alaska Board of Fisheries authorized the department to use its emergency order authority to increase sport bag and possession limits and modify annual limits for hatchery king salmon in terminal harvest areas when escapement is expected to be in excess of the broodstock requirements. King salmon in excess of broodstock requirements are expected to return to the Deer Mountain Hatchery, Whitman Lake Hatchery, Neets Bay Hatchery and Carroll Inlet remote release site. Therefore, the department is providing opportunity for anglers to target hatchery king salmon in the saltwater terminal areas adjacent to these locations. The terminal harvest area regulations provided for under the *District 1: Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.369) are being implemented more conservatively to protect wild king salmon stocks transiting the Ketchikan area.

In addition, the Mountain Point Area opening date is being delayed by one week to allow more Unuk River king salmon to return to the river to spawn. The Unuk River escapement is forecasted to be around 1,891 fish which is just above the lower bound of the escapement goal (1,800 – 3,800). A weak return of the 5-year-old fish, the dominant age class returning to the Unuk River is expected. There is additional concern because this age class experienced poor freshwater survival and no marine recoveries have been encountered to date.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-KS-R-05-22 established resident and nonresident king salmon bag and possession limits and a nonresident king salmon annual limit as per the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management plan based on the 2021 winter troll catch per unit effort and remains in effect in the area outside those described in this emergency order.

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-06-22 establishes areas and times when king salmon may not be retained in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan; these actions are being taken to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks and

meet objectives for king salmon management within the Pacific Salmon Treaty and are not affected by this emergency order.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.