

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-5-33-24

Issued at: Dillingham, Monday, July 1, 2024

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon from five to 10 fish in all waters of the Wood River drainage. The bag and possession limit for other salmon, except king and sockeye salmon, remains at five fish. These limits for salmon, other than king and sockeye salmon, are in combination with the more liberal limits for sockeye salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022(h)(5) are added 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. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.

(h) In the Wood River drainage, the following special provisions apply:

(5) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 10 fish with no size limit; of which only five per day and five in possession may be chum, pink or coho salmon in combination;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 

Greta Hayden-Pless

Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The escapement of sockeye salmon in the Wood River has exceeded the escapement goal of 700,000 – 1,800,000 fish. Through June 30, 2024, a total of 2,174,670 sockeye salmon have been counted at the Wood River tower. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003 *Emergency Order Authority* (2)(A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the goal range. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Wood River sport fishery.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.