

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-6-35-24

Issued at: Anchorage, 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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 sockeye salmon bag and possession limit to 12 fish per day, 24 in possession in the Coghill River drainage. The limit for other salmon, except king, coho, and sockeye salmon, remains at six per day, 12 in possession. Additionally, this emergency order reduces the area closed to fishing adjacent to the Coghill River weir to 50 feet.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023 (11) 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 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area.

(11) in the Coghill River drainage, the bag limit for sockeye salmon is 12 fish and the possession limit is 24 fish; no size limit; the waters within 50 feet of the Coghill River weir are closed to sport fishing.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Donald Arthur

Donald Arthur
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sockeye salmon escapement goal range for the Coghill River is 20,000 – 75,000 fish. As of June 30, 2024, an estimated 28,239 sockeye salmon have passed through the weir on the Coghill River. At this time, the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal has been achieved and with the run currently estimated at 25% completion, escapement is projected to meet or exceed the upper end of the goal. A significant number of fish are still entering the river and staging downstream of the weir. 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. Sockeye salmon escapement is anticipated to exceed the upper end of the goal which warrants an increase in the sockeye salmon bag and possession limit and a reduction in the area closed to sport fishing adjacent to the weir.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.