

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-51-24

Issued at: Anchorage, Monday, August 12, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to three fish, of which only one may be a coho salmon for all fresh waters of the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area, excluding the stocked waters of Bird and Campbell Creeks. Furthermore, this emergency prohibits the use of bait in all flowing waters of the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area, excluding Bird and Campbell Creeks. In flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used except for Bird and Campbell Creeks.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 59.120(2)(A), 59.122(a)(1)(A), 59.122(a)(2)(E), and 59.122(a)(14)(B) are superseded and 5 AAC 59.120(9) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 14 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024:

5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.

(2) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may not be retained or possessed; no open season; salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length that are caught must be released immediately; notwithstanding the provisions of this subparagraph, in waters where sport fishing for salmon is allowed under 5 AAC 59.122, except as specified in 5 AAC 59.122(a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(E), and (a)(14)(B), the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, is three fish, of which only one per day and one in possession may be coho salmon;

(9) in flowing waters, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.

5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainage Area.

(1) the Bird Creek drainage

(A) from its mouth upstream 500 yards to an ADF&G marker is open from August 14 – December 31 to sportfishing for salmon, other than king salmon, with a bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length of three fish; bait and multiple hooks are allowed.

(2) in the Campbell Creek drainage,

(E) from August 14 – September 30, the waters between ADF&G regulatory markers located under the Dimond Boulevard Bridge upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located near Piper Street, except those waters between Shelikof Street and the Lake Otis Parkway Bridge which is closed to sport fishing, are open

to sport fishing for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of three fish; bait and multiple hooks are allowed.

(14) in the Ship Creek drainage,

(B) the bag and possession limit for salmon other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater is three fish, of which only one may be a coho salmon;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brittany Blain-Roth

Brittany Blain-Roth
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Early indicators from the nearby Northern Cook Inlet Management Area (NCIMA), including weir counts at the Deshka River, Little Susitna River, Fish Creek, and Jim Creek, suggest low coho salmon abundance throughout the Southcentral region. Anglers have reported poor fishing success for coho salmon for both inriver and marine fisheries, including the Anchorage Management Area (AMA) fresh waters and Cook Inlet salt waters. With signs of poor coho salmon run strength in the region, it is warranted to protect wild coho salmon stocks throughout the AMA that are small and may not be able sustain high levels of harvest, during a year of low runs.

Ship Creek is where the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery collects coho salmon broodstock for the purpose of providing coho salmon sport fishing opportunities in the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area and throughout Southcentral Alaska. The 2024 coho salmon broodstock goal is approximately 400 pairs of coho salmon. A complete stream survey of Ship Creek above the fishery was conducted on August 2 and 98 coho salmon were counted, which was approximately 50% of the historical average counted for that week. Recent high and turbid water conditions in the creek have made stream survey conditions difficult. On average, approximately 65% of Ship Creek coho salmon final escapement is counted above the fishery by this week in August. Given the low counts on August 2 and the inability to conduct a complete survey, it is necessary to reduce the harvest of Ship Creek coho salmon for the remainder of the year to ensure that broodstock needs are met.

DISTRIBUTION:

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