

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-19-24

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, April 29, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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December 31, 2024, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the area open to sport fishing at the Eklutna Tailrace terminal fishery. The fishery includes all waters of the Eklutna Tailrace from its confluence with the Knik River, downstream to the upstream edge of the Alaska Railroad bridge.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122(8)(E) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(E) in the Eklutna Tailrace, and in the waters from its confluence with the Knik river downstream to the upstream edge of the Alaska Railroad bridge, from May 1-December 31, the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish; after taking a bag limit of one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for any species of finfish on that same day; bait is allowed; except as provided in (b) of this section, there is an annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Samantha Oslund
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet are experiencing a period of low productivity. King salmon returns to these rivers continue to be low and below management objectives. Given anticipated poor runs of king salmon to Cook Inlet in 2024, including Kenai Peninsula and Northern Cook Inlet, the majority of wild stock sport fisheries are starting the 2024 season closed and king salmon fishing opportunity is minimal. The stocked terminal fishery at Eklutna Tailrace provides the only harvest opportunity of king salmon in the Northern Cook Inlet area. Given the severity of fishing restrictions in Cook Inlet and the

potential public safety issues within the current area of this terminal fishery during this closure period, expansion in the Knik River waters to target the king salmon returning to this terminal fishery is warranted. Access to the expanded area is boat only.

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.