

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-17-11

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, June 27, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and prohibits the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length, while sport fishing in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northern-most edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 2011.

In the waters described above, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used. King salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately. Harvest is allowed for king salmon less than 20 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. (2)(A)(i) and provisions of 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. (1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, 2011 through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 2011:

#### **5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

(2)(A) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length as follows:

- (i) from June 29 – July 14, that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, only king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained, king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and less than 55 inches in length may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

#### **5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

- (1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(A) from June 29 – July 14, in that portion of the Kenai River from and ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure may be used.

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Robert N. Begich  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

As provided by 5 AAC 57.160 Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan (d)(2), if the spawning escapement is projected to be less than the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, restrict as necessary the taking of king salmon in the sport and guided sport fisheries in the Kenai River to achieve the optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 5,300 to 9,000 king salmon.

As of June 27, three out of the four indices used to assess the abundance of king salmon in the Kenai River indicate a run that is well below average. All department assessment methods indicate the run is similar to the runs of 2009 and 2010 that produced escapements estimated to be near the lower bound of the OEG. Due to the high uncertainty of whether the minimum escapement of 5,300 fish will be achieved it is warranted to conserve Kenai River early-run king salmon in an area of the river where they are susceptible to a harvest rate that could result in an escapement below the OEG.

**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.