

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-06-11

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, June 9, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2011.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (a)(2)(A), (a)(5)(A) and (a)(6)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2011:

5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek reservoir:
(A) in flowing waters, the use of bait is prohibited;

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:
(A) in flowing waters, the use of bait is prohibited;

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:
(A) in flowing waters, the use of bait is prohibited;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

The Anchor River escapement of king salmon through June 8, 2011, was 1,053 fish. At this time we are unable to predict with certainty that the Anchor River king salmon escapement will attain the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 3,800 -10,000 king salmon. The 2011 escapement is below the 2010 escapement of 2,052 king salmon for this date and is well below the 2004-2010 escapement average of 3,857 king salmon for this date. From 2004-2008, 39 percent to 60 percent of the Anchor

River king salmon escapement was upstream of the salmon weir by June 8. The projected escapement for 2011, based on run timing and escapement levels from 2004-2010 and escapement observed through June 8, 2011, is between 1,755 and 7,010 fish.

The king salmon escapements to the Ninilchik River weir of 543 in 2007 and 528 in 2009 were below the SEG of 550-1,300 king salmon and the 2008 escapement of 586 fish was slightly above the lower bound of the escapement goal. King salmon escapements to Deep Creek have been within the SEG of 350-800 king salmon, except in 2008 when the aerial survey count was 205 fish.

Prohibiting the use of bait is expected to substantially decrease fishing mortality of these stocks and allow escapement goals to be achieved. Therefore, it is justified to eliminate use of bait in the Anchor River, Deep Creek and Ninilchik River beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2011, when a majority of the remaining Anchor River and other king salmon stocks are likely to return.

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.