

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-17-12

Issued at Soldotna: Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-11-12, issued Wednesday, June 13, 2012.

This emergency order closes the Kenai River to sport fishing for king salmon from the mouth upstream to 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 beginning at 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012. Sport fishing for king salmon will remain closed from 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012 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 northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area (2)(A)(i) and 5 AAC 57.120 (3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, 2012 through 11:59 p.m., through Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

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

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

(A)(i) from June 22 – June 30, in the Kenai River from its mouth 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, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon; from July 1 – 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, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon;

(3) king salmon less than 20 inches in length as follows;

(A) from June 22 – June 30, in unstocked lakes and ponds and in the Kenai River from its mouth 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, are closed to sport fishing for king salmon; from July 1 – July 14, in unstocked lakes and ponds and 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, are closed to sport fishing for king salmon;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of both 5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. (a), and 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. (a) are to ensure adequate escapement of early-and late-run king salmon into the Kenai River.

As of June 19, approximately 62 percent of the early-run of Kenai River king salmon is complete and all indices used to assess inriver abundance indicate a run that is well below average. Inseason projections show all indices will not achieve their respective minimum inseason management objective by the end of the run on June 30. Through June 17 the DIDSON sonar cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 2,201 fish. Inseason projections using DIDSON sonar are for a total run to the river of 4,000 to 4,100 early-run Kenai River king salmon. All of this information used in combination indicates the 2012 early-run is the lowest on record. King salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-11-12, which restricted the Kenai River Drainage king salmon fishery to catch-and-release trophy fishing is superseded.

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.