

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-35-12

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, July 6, 2012

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery, beginning 6:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 10, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012. Any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately unharmed.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. (c)(1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 6:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 10, 2012 through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(c)(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon may not be retained and any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately unharmed;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As directed in 5 AAC 21.359. *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*. the department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stock primarily for sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The low abundance of late-run king salmon in the Kenai River during the 2011 fishing season necessitated restrictions to the sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries. Based upon the preseason forecast, the 2012 Kenai River king salmon run was expected to be below average. Based upon the poor performance of king salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and other areas of the state, it is likely the Kenai River late-run king salmon stock will also experience poor performance and require conservative management. Initial indicators of Kenai River late-run strength are below average. The department has no information indicating that the Kenai River late-run will experience average or above average run strength in 2012. The 2012 late-run king salmon sport fishery was restricted from using bait in the Kenai River. Therefore, as directed by the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, the personal use fishery

will be managed to conserve king salmon in an effort to avoid additional restrictions or closure to the sport fishery.

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.