

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-41-12

Issued at: Anchorage, Friday, July 13, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, 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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 while sport fishing within one mile of shore in the salt waters of Cook Inlet south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River to the latitude of Bluff Point beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012. Catch-and-release fishing for king salmon is allowed, but king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon that are caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. (b)(1) and (b)(1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(b)(1) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore:

(A) sport fishing is allowed, except king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon that are caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Thomas D. Vania
Regional Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and throughout Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. The department's information, including data from inriver assessment programs, indicates that the Kenai River late-run is also experiencing low strength. As of July 12, all indices used to assess inriver abundance indicate a run that is well below average and are currently projected to be well under their respective inseason management objective by the end of the run in early August. The Kenai inriver sport fishery is currently restricted to catch-and-release/trophy fishing in an effort to ensure adequate escapement of Kenai River late-run king salmon. Therefore, it is justified to prohibit retention of king salmon in salt waters within one mile of shore while Kenai River late-run king salmon migrate through the area and into fresh water.

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.