

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-11-12

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 15, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order 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 downstream 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 15, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012. Harvest is allowed for king salmon less than 20 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length.

In addition, 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 northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, beginning 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012. Harvest is allowed for king salmon less than 20 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length.

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.

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 (1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order.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., Friday, June 15, 2012 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 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)(A) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length as follows:

- (i) from June 15 – June 30, that portion of the Kenai River downstream 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, and from July 1 through 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 15 – June 30, that portion of the Kenai River downstream 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; from July 1 through 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 one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure may be used.

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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 (a), the purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement of early-run king salmon into the Kenai River.

As of June 11, approximately 25% of the run is complete and four out of the four indices used to assess the inriver abundance of early-run Kenai River king salmon 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 10 the DIDSON sonar cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 1,586 fish. Inseason projections using DIDSON sonar are for a total run to the river of 4,400 to 5,000 early-run Kenai River king salmon. All of this information used in combination indicates the 2012 run is smaller than the 2011 run. Therefore, these measures are warranted to ensure adequate escapement of Kenai River early-run king salmon.

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.