

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

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

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of naturally-produced king salmon in the Kasilof River beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 15, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012. Naturally-produced king salmon may not be possessed or retained; naturally-produced king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. A naturally-produced king salmon is a king salmon with an adipose fin intact.

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. (8)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order.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, June 30, 2012.

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 Kenai Peninsula Area.

- (8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:
- (ii) naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained or possessed; naturally-produced king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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 (c), the department shall manage the Kasilof River early-run king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal, to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run while ensuring adequate escapement of naturally-produced king salmon, and to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River.

The department has determined that an emergency order to restrict the early-run king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River drainage to catch-and-release fishing, effective Friday, June 15, 2012, will

likely result in an increase in the sport fishing effort for and harvest of naturally-produced king salmon in the Kasilof River. The department manages the Kasilof River king salmon sport fishery to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 650 to 1,700 naturally-produced king salmon as monitored through a weir at a department facility located on Crooked Creek. The escapement of naturally-produced king salmon into Crooked Creek in 2011 was 654 fish. King salmon runs on the Kenai Peninsula are of below average run strength. Therefore, to minimize the effect of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the department's ability to achieve adequate escapement into Crooked Creek, it is warranted to restrict the harvest of naturally-produced early-run king salmon in the Kasilof River to increase the escapement of naturally-produced fish.

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.