

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-08-12

Issued at: Homer, Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 19, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes waters of the Anchor River drainage from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South forks to sport fishing each Wednesday during the king salmon season beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 19, 2012. In addition, this emergency order also decreases the waters of the Anchor River drainage open to sport fishing by relocating the ADF&G regulatory marker downstream approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 19, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

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BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (a)(2)(C) and (a)(2)(E) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 19, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012:

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

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage except the Bridge Creek Reservoir:

(C) from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is open

(i) on the weekend, and the Monday following that weekend, before Memorial Day weekend and the following four weekend and the Monday following each of those weekends; and

(ii) from July 1 – October 31;

(E) sport fishing is open for king salmon from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks only on the weekend, and the Monday following that weekend, before Memorial Day weekend and the following four weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, the bag and possession limit is one fish; a person may not retain more than two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length each year from the Anchor River and Deep Creek combined; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 56.124; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from either Deep Creek or the Anchor River may not sport fish in either drainage for the rest of that day; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800–10,000 fish. Despite management actions to reduce king salmon harvest in the Anchor River sport fisheries, the king salmon SEG has not been achieved since 2008, and expected abundance of the 2012 run is below the historical average. The recent poor king salmon runs and uncertainty over how quickly the run may rebound justify starting the 2012 season with a reduced amount of fishing time and area. Further restrictions may be necessary by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of Anchor River king salmon indicates the escapement goal will not be met.

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.