

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-09-12

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 2, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order limits sport fishing gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 2, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, 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 (a)(2)(A), (a)(5)(A) and (a)(6)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 2, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, 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:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, artificial lure may be used;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

The Anchor River escapement of king salmon through May 29, 2012, was 321 fish, well below last year's escapement of 491 king salmon and the 2004-2011 average escapement of 1,315 king salmon for this date. At this time, the department is unable to predict with certainty that the Anchor River king salmon escapement will attain the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 3,800–10,000 fish. From 2004-2008, 9 percent to 28 percent of the Anchor River king salmon escapement was upstream of the salmon

weir by May 29. The projected escapement for 2012, based on average run timing to run timing that is six days late is between 2,134 and 4,649 fish.

The king salmon escapements to the Ninilchik River weir were well below the SEG of 500-1,300 king salmon in 2007 (543), 2009 (528) and near the lower bound of the escapement goal in 2010 (605) and 2011 (668). King salmon escapements to Deep Creek have been within the SEG of 350-800 king salmon, except in 2008 when the aerial survey count was 205 fish. In order to minimize the effect of conservation actions for the Anchor River on the department's ability to achieve adequate escapement into Ninilchik River and Deep Creek, it is warranted to restrict the fishing gear on these two systems as well.

Prohibiting the use of bait, treble hooks and multiple hooks is expected to substantially decrease fishing mortality of these stocks and allow escapement goals to be achieved. Therefore, it is justified to eliminate their use in the Anchor River, Deep Creek and Ninilchik River beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 2, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2012, when a majority of the remaining Anchor River and other king salmon stocks are likely to return.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-08-12 that closed water 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 and also decreased the water 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 through July 31, 2012, remains in effect.

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.