

# PERSONAL USE FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-34-13

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, July 8, 2013

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery, beginning 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 10, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately unharmed.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. (c)(1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2013 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013:

#### **5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

(c)(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon may not be retained and any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately unharmed;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Robert N. Begich  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

As directed in 5 AAC 21.359. *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stock primarily for sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. Based upon the preseason forecast, the 2013 Kenai River king salmon run is expected to be below average. Based upon the poor performance of king salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and other areas of the state, it is likely the Kenai River late-run king salmon stock will also experience poor performance and require conservative management. Initial indicators of Kenai River late-run strength are below average, with a cumulative DIDSON sonar count of 694 king salmon through July 4, and poor catch rates in both the east-side set net commercial and inriver sport fisheries over the holiday weekend. The 2013 late-run king salmon sport fishery was restricted from using bait in the Kenai River. Therefore, as directed by the *Kenai River*

*Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, the personal use fishery will be managed to conserve king salmon in an effort to avoid additional restrictions or closure to the sport fishery.

**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.