

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-17-13

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 15, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 15, 2013, unless superseded by a subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Orders No. 2-KS-7-03-13 and No. 2-KS-7-06-13 issued April 18, 2013. This emergency order closes waters of the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek, from the mouth upstream approximately two miles to ADF&G markers, or to clearly recognizable physical features to sport fishing for any species of fish, beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 15, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 15, 2013.

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 (a)(2)(C) and (E), (a)(5)(C), (a)(6)(C) and (D), and (a)(10)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 15, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 15, 2013:

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 the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is closed;
- (E) from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is closed;

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:

- (C) from its mouth upstream approximately two miles to ADF&G regulatory markers, sport fishing is closed;

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

- (C) from its mouth upstream approximately two miles to ADF&G regulatory markers, sport fishing is closed;
- (D) from its mouth upstream approximately two miles to ADF&G regulatory markers, sport fishing is closed;

(a)(10) Stariski Creek drainage:

- (C) from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge, sport fishing is closed;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and throughout Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. All indices of abundance suggest king salmon run strength in the lower Kenai Peninsula is comparable with poor run strength trends experienced by other king salmon stocks in the upper Kenai Peninsula and upper Cook Inlet.

The sustainable escapement goal for king salmon in the Anchor River is 3,800–10,000 fish. The Anchor River escapement of king salmon through June 10, 2013 was 657 fish. From 2004–2012, 20 to 69 percent of the Anchor River king salmon escapement was upstream of the salmon weir by June 10. At this time it is uncertain that the escapement goal for king salmon will be achieved. Therefore, restrictions are necessary to protect upstream migrating king salmon that are needed to achieve the spawning escapement goal.

The sustainable escapement goal for king salmon in the Ninilchik River is 550-1,300 naturally-produced king salmon through the weir from July 3–31. King salmon escapement was below the SEG in 2007 and 2009, but was met in 2008, and 2010–2012. In 2007–2009 and 2012, the egg-take goal was not achieved despite extending weir operations. In 2010, egg-takes were not needed for stocking. If they were, the number of king salmon was insufficient to meet the egg-take goal. Restrictions are necessary to achieve the escapement and egg-take goals.

Prohibiting fishing in July is expected to prevent hooking-related mortality on migrating king salmon. To minimize the shifting of effort due to conservation actions for the Anchor River and Ninilchik River, it is warranted to restrict sport fishing on Deep Creek and Stariski Creek as well.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-03-13, that closed 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 decreased 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 through June 30, 2013 is superseded.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-06-13 that reduced the bag and possession limit for king salmon in the Ninilchik River drainage to one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length during the three-day weekend fishing periods beginning on the Memorial Day weekend, that allowed retention of wild or hatchery king salmon, and then allowed retention of only hatchery king salmon beginning on July 1 is superseded.

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.