

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-28-14

Issued at Soldotna: Thursday, June 26, 2014

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 1, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2014, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and multiple hooks while sport fishing in waters of the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 1, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2014. In the waters described above, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

### **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 (8)(B)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 1, 2014 through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2014.

**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) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

(B) the following special provisions apply in that portion downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:

(ii) in flowing waters, from July 1 – July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

King salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet are experiencing a period of low productivity and below average run strength since 2009. That trend has continued during 2014. Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-05-14, issued February 2014, for the Kasilof River, prohibited the use of bait and multiple hooks, prohibited the retention of naturally-produced king salmon and reduced the bag limit for hatchery-produced king salmon. That emergency order was issued to conserve early run Crooked Creek king salmon and expires July 1. The department manages the Kasilof River early-run 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 the department facility located on Crooked Creek. As of June 24, the

escapement was 101 naturally-produced king salmon and it is uncertain if the sustainable escapement goal will be achieved and/or broodstock will be available for egg takes in 2014. Early-run Crooked Creek origin king salmon are still present in the Kasilof River during early July. The department's information, including data from inriver assessment programs, indicates king salmon abundance is low in general.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-26-14 was issued to restrict the late-run king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River drainage during July. This emergency order will likely result in an increase in the sport fishing effort and catch of king salmon in the Kasilof River during July. Therefore, to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River, the measures in the emergency order are warranted to ensure adequate escapement of naturally-produced Crooked Creek early-run and Kasilof River late-run king salmon.

**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.