

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-44-14

Issued at Soldotna: Thursday, July 24, 2014

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 26, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2014, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon while sport fishing in waters of the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 26, 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. King salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

### **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 (8)(A) and (8)(B)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 26, 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:

(A) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

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

(i) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Jason Pawluk  
Assistant Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

King salmon runs to Cook Inlet and throughout Alaska, are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. The department's information, including data from inriver assessment programs, indicates that the Kenai River late-run is experiencing low run strength. The department has no inseason stock assessment data for late-run Kasilof River king salmon. However, based on the similarities in the

low run strength of king salmon stocks to both the Kasilof and Kenai rivers in 2014, it is likely the Kasilof late-run of king salmon is also experiencing a well below average run. Emergency order No. 2-KS-1-42-14 was issued to close the late-run king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River drainage. This would likely result in an increase in the sport fishing effort and catch of king salmon in the Kasilof River during the remainder of July without further restrictions. Therefore, to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River, this restriction is warranted to ensure adequate escapement of Kasilof River late-run king salmon.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-28-14, which prohibited the use of bait and multiple hooks while sport fishing in the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, 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.