

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-01-14

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, February 27, 2014

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday,  
June 30, 2014, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Anchor River drainage to sport fishing each Wednesday during the king salmon season and reduces the waters of the Anchor River drainage open to sport fishing. Under this emergency order, waters open to sport fishing extend from the mouth to the downstream side of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge approximately 550 feet below the junction of the North and South forks. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, June 30, 2014.

### 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 (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(C)(i) and (a)(2)(E) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, June 30, 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.**

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek Reservoir:

(C) from its mouth upstream to the downstream side of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge located approximately 550 feet below the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is open

(i) on the weekend, and the Monday following that weekend, before Memorial Day weekend and the following four weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; and

(E) sport fishing is open for king salmon from its mouth upstream to the downstream side of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge, located approximately 550 feet below the junction of the North and South forks, only on the weekend, and the Monday following that weekend, before Memorial Day weekend and the following four weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, the bag and possession limit is one fish; a person may not retain more than two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length each year from the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and all marine waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) combined; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from either Ninilchik River, Deep Creek or Anchor River may not sport fish in any of these drainages for the rest of that day; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

Anchor River king salmon, like other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet, are experiencing a period of low productivity. The 2014 outlook for the Anchor River king salmon run is below the historical average and is expected to be similar to the 2009–2013 runs. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800–10,000 fish. The SEG was achieved in 2012 and 2013 with preseason and inseason restrictions to the inriver and marine sport fisheries. From 2009–2011, the SEG was not achieved despite inseason inriver and marine restrictions to reduce king salmon harvest in the sport fishery. The recent poor king salmon runs in Lower Cook Inlet streams and uncertainty over how quickly the runs may rebound justify starting the 2014 season with a reduced amount of fishing time and area. It is anticipated that these restrictions combined with annual limit and gear reductions will provide the greatest potential for achieving escapement goals during 2014 and provide fishing opportunity throughout the season.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-02-14 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River and all marine waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.). This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, June 30, 2014.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-03-14 restricts sport fishing gear in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, June 30, 2014.

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.