

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-46-15

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, July 24, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 25, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-35-15 issued in Soldotna on Thursday, June 25, 2015 and restores the use of bait in the Kenai River sport fishery from its mouth upstream to ADF&G markers located approximately at the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 25 through 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2015.

The emergency order that closed sport fishing for king salmon (2-KS-1-05-15) in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, remains in effect through 11:59 p.m., Friday July 31, 2015.

### REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-35-15 is rescinded.

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (a), is to ensure adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for late-run Kenai River king salmon is 15,000 to 30,000 king salmon. As provided in 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (e) from July 1 through July 31, if the projected inriver run of late-run king salmon is less than 22,500 the Kenai River sport fishery may be restricted in order to achieve the sustainable escapement goal.

Inseason run projections are stronger than expected and indicate a run larger than the pre-season forecast. Through July 22, the estimated total passage of late-run king salmon at the river mile 14 sonar was 11,079 fish. In the previous two years using the ARIS sonar, 38% and 41% of the run passed the sonar site at river mile 14 through July 22. Through July 22 the projected inriver run of

late-run Kenai River king salmon (which includes the projected season total inriver harvest of king salmon downstream of the sonar) is 23,500 to 31,000 fish. Projections of the sport harvest from July 25 through July 31 indicate an additional harvest of 1,200 to 3,500 fish with the use of bait will result in a projected end of season escapement of 20,500 to 25,600 fish.

Kenai River king salmon have been experiencing a period of low productivity and below average run strength in recent years. Although the 2015 run is improved, inseason run projections remain below the historical average total run size. Therefore the **sport fishery will remain closed to king salmon fishing upstream of the ADF&G markers located approximately 300 yards downstream of Slikok Creek.** By regulation, the king salmon fishing season ends Friday, July 31.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-35-15, issued Thursday, June 25, 2015 which prohibited the use of bait in the Kenai River Drainage from its mouth upstream to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is rescinded.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-05-15, issued Thursday, February 19, 2015 which closed a portion of the Kenai River Drainage to sport fishing for king salmon through July 31, 2015, 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.