

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-28-16

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, July 1, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-1-24-16 which prohibited the use of bait while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake based in part on an inriver projection less than 22,500 king salmon. This emergency order maintains the bait restriction based on concerns for achieving the lower end of the escapement goal.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. (1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2016:

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(B) from July 1 – July 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jason Pawluk
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River sport fishery may be restricted in order to achieve the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 15,000 to 30,000 late-run Kenai River king salmon.

Kenai River king salmon and other king salmon stocks are recovering from a period of low productivity and have been below average run strength since 2009. The 2016 preseason forecast for late-run Kenai River king salmon is for a total run of approximately 30,000 fish. This is approximately half of the 1986–2015 average total run of approximately 56,000 fish and is insufficient to provide harvest in an unrestricted fishery without jeopardizing attainment of the SEG. Considering the below average forecast and projected total harvest under an unrestricted fishery, prohibiting bait in the sport fishery is warranted.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-KS-1-24-16 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.