

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-21-16

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, June 16, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 18, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 15, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the Ninilchik River to fishing for hatchery king salmon from its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles upstream. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used while sport fishing in the Ninilchik River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (a)(6)(D)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 18 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 15, 2016:

5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(i) June 18 – July 15; bag and possession limit of one hatchery-reared king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Ninilchik River may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day; only one unbaited, single- hook, artificial lure may be used.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon are stocked in the Ninilchik River to provide additional harvest opportunity for anglers while preventing over harvest of wild king salmon that return to the river. ADF&G sampling conducted June 14 estimated the composition of king salmon from the mouth to approximately 2 miles upstream 59% hatchery-reared and 41% wild king salmon.

In 2016 and from 1999-2005, a weir was operated approximately 4 miles upstream of the mouth of the Ninilchik River in June. In 2016, 72 hatchery-reared and 179 wild king salmon were counted through the weir from June 1-14; for these same dates from 1999-2005, weir counts averaged 7 hatchery-reared and 80 wild king salmon.

The Ninilchik River SEG is 550–1,300 wild king salmon. The SEG has been achieved since 2010. Additional opportunity is available to harvest stocked fish in the Ninilchik River without negatively impacting the wild king salmon run or salmon spawning and rearing habitat. One hundred percent of the hatchery-produced king salmon released in the Ninilchik River had their adipose fin removed as smolt, as evidenced by a healed fin clip scar where the adipose fin is normally located. Wild fish may be recognized by the intact adipose fin. Only one, unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used to minimize release mortality.

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.