

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-15-17

Issued at Soldotna: Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday,
June 30, 2017, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order allows the use of bait in the Kenai River from the mouth upstream to the ADF&G markers 300 yards below the mouth of Slikok Creek. The maximum size limit of less than 46 inches for king salmon remains in effect through June 30. Upstream of the Slikok Creek ADF&G markers anglers remain limited to unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures with a size limit of king salmon 36 inches or less.

REGULATION:

Consistent with the The Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 57.160), 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 (1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. The following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 21 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, June 30, 2017.

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)(A) from January 1 – June 30, in the Kenai River, and from July 1 – July 31 in the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used, except that from June 21 to June 30, a single hook and bait is allowed in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brian Marston
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 57.160) directs the Department to achieve the optimal escapement goal of 3,900 to 6,600 large king salmon greater than 34 inches total length. Through Monday, June 19, with an average of 74% of the run past the sonar, the cumulative count is about 6,050 large king salmon, and the final projected inriver run is 8,240 large king salmon. Accounting for current harvest levels, the projected escapement on June 30 is 7,700 large king salmon, over 1,000 fish above the goal. Therefore, it is warranted to liberalize this fishery by allowing the use of bait in order to help achieve the OEG.

As provided by 5 AAC 57.160 KENAI RIVER AND KASILOF RIVER EARLY-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, the Department shall manage the Kenai River early-run king salmon sport fisheries to achieve the optimal escapement goal of 3,900 - 6,600 king salmon greater than 34 inches in length. If the inseason inriver run projection exceeds the optimal escapement goal range, the commissioner may, by emergency order, liberalize the sport fishery by allowing the use of bait.

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.