

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-12-18

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, May 31, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 2, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 15, 2018,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits king salmon fishing (including catch-and-release) while sport fishing within one mile of shore in the salt waters of Cook Inlet between the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) to 1 mile north of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.). King salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other fish may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan (g) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 2 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 15, 2018:

5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.

(g) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, from June 2 through July 15, in the salt waters within 1 mile of shore between the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) to 1 mile north of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) sport fishing is allowed, sport fishing for king salmon is prohibited; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon that are caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800-7,600 fish. As of May 29, 2018, only 90 king salmon have been counted using a combination of sonar and video weirs. Based on 2009-2014 average run timing ADF&G is projecting the SEG will not be achieved and has closed sport fishing on the Anchor and Ninilchik rivers and Deep Creek to reduce the mortality of king salmon in these drainages.

Based on genetic analysis from 2014-2016, approximately 10% to 25% of the early run harvest north of Bluff Point originated from Cook Inlet streams. In waters north of Bluff Point, maturing king salmon

(spawners) tend to be harvested near shore at a greater rate than immature (nonlocal) king salmon. From 1996-2002 and 2014-2017, the king salmon harvest north of Bluff Point >1 mile from shore was primarily comprised of outside Cook Inlet stocks. Therefore, it is justified to prohibit sport fishing for king salmon in salt waters within one mile of shore while these locally spawning king salmon, migrate through the area and into fresh water.

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.