

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-53-21

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 5, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king, pink, chum, and coho salmon, 16 inches or longer, from three per day and six in possession, to six per day and twelve in possession, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. No more than two salmon, 16 inches or longer, per day and in possession may be coho salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120. (4)(A)(iii) are superseded and (4)(A)(vi) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 5 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2021.

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) except as provided in (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is six fish per day and twelve in possession, of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon and three per day and six in possession may be chum salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

(vi) except as provided in (iii) and (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish per day and six in possession, of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Colton Lipka
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 21.360(h)(2)) stipulates that the department may increase the bag and possession limit as appropriate when the department determines that the abundance of late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon exceeds 2,300,000 fish.

As of August 3, 2021, the department projects the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is greater than 2.3 million fish and anticipates the escapement goal (750,000 – 1,300,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved. Determining if the escapement goal will be achieved is done by subtracting the anticipated inriver sockeye salmon harvest above the river mile 19 from the projected end of season total inriver run estimated at the sockeye salmon sonar. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king, pink, and coho salmon, to six per day and twelve in possession.

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.