

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-15-24

Issued at: Kodiak, Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 9, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used while sport fishing.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 65.020(1)(A) are superseded and 5 AAC 65.022(f) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective Saturday, June 1 through Friday, August 9, 2024:

5 AAC 65.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(1) king salmon:

(A) in fresh waters: may be taken only from January 1 through July 25; except that in the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point, and including Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries, sport fishing for king salmon is closed, king salmon may not be possessed or retained; a king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; and as follows:

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(f) In the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries; only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Tyler Polum,
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish and has not been met during five of the last 10 years and the 2023 season was the lowest weir count on record for the Chignik River king salmon run. In 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries designated the Chignik River king salmon a stock of concern in response to these poor returns. Poor king salmon production statewide and low escapements in the Chignik River justifies closure of the king salmon sport fishery. Additionally, in order to reduce mortality, the use of bait is prohibited, and lures are limited to one single-hook, artificial lure within Chignik River drainage downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries. The Chignik River king salmon run will be monitored daily during the season and fishing opportunity may be restored by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of the Chignik River king salmon run indicates the BEG will be attained.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Alaska Wildlife Troopers Kodiak Office.