

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-23-98

Issued at Soldotna: July 27, 1998

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. July 28, 1998

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. July 31, 1998,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon less than 52 inches in total length in those areas of the Kenai and Moose Rivers open to king salmon fishing. Effective at 12:01 a.m., July 28, 1998 fishing for king salmon 52 inches or less in length is restricted to catch-and-release only. Terminal tackle as provided for in regulation is one plug, spoon, spinner, or series of spinners, or two flies, or two hooks. Bait may not be used as previously provided for in emergency order 2-KS-1-16-98. King salmon 52 inches in length as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail may be retained during the period of mandatory catch-and-release. This emergency order is in affect through July 31, 1998.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022 (b)(10) and 5 AAC 56.022 (b)(11) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

In those areas of the Kenai and Moose Rivers open to king salmon fishing, king salmon less than 52 inches in total length may not be possessed or retained from 12:01 a.m. July 28 through July 31. Catch-and-release fishing for king salmon less than 52 inches in total length is permitted in those areas of these rivers open to king salmon fishing.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Late Chinook Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.359) directs the department to achieve an optimum spawning escapement of 22,300 late run king salmon. At this time a spawning escapement of about 20,000 is projected. The Management Plan directs the department at this projected escapement level to restrict the fishery by prohibiting the use of bait, providing for time and/or area closures and/or permitting a catch-and-release only fishery to achieve the optimum spawning escapement level. Bait was removed from the fishery by emergency order 2-KS-1-16-98. The next and most appropriate step to increase spawning escapement levels and reduce harvest is to implement a catch-and-release fishery for the remainder of the season. The Plan further states that retention of king salmon 52 inches or larger may be permitted during the period of mandatory catch-and-release. As implementing this provision of the Plan will not jeopardize the resource, king salmon 52 inches or larger may be retained.