

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-15-02

Issued at Soldotna,
Friday, June 21, 2002

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 14, 2002, unless superceded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the closure in the Kenai River to the taking of all king salmon as outlined in 5 AAC 56.070. KENAI RIVER EARLY-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN due to a projected spawning escapement level below the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 7,200 to 14,400 fish. This emergency order further restricts those areas closed to fishing for king salmon in the Kenai River that are not presently closed to all fishing by regulation to one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure use only.

This emergency order is effective at 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, 2002.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022(a)(1)(A-B) and 5 AAC 56.023(a)(1)(A-B) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 56.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (EXCLUDING THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE).

5 AAC 56.022(a)(1)(A-B)

The Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge is closed to the taking of king salmon from 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 14, 2002.

5 AAC 56.023. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE.

5 AAC 56.023(a)(1)(A-B)

The Kenai River from the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the outlet of Skilak Lake is closed to the taking of king salmon from 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 14, 2002. Only one single hook, unbaited, artificial lure may be used.

Frank Rue,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mark S. Gamblin
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 56.070) directs the department to manage the Kenai River early king salmon run to achieve a spawning escapement level of 7,200 – 14,400 fish. As of Thursday, June 20, only 4,646 king salmon have entered the river, resulting in a projected total run of less than 6,300 fish. Given the estimated harvest of early-run king salmon prior to the closure of the fishery on June 11, it is estimated that the total escapement will be less than 5,800 fish, substantially below the 7,200 minimum escapement goal. In order to provide additional protection for early-run king salmon, gear is restricted to one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure in that area of the Kenai River closed to king salmon fishing but open to fishing for other species. The fly-fishing-only waters designation still applies to that portion of the Moose River drainage included in this emergency order.

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.