

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-18-05

Issued at Soldotna: Tuesday, July 5, 2005

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 7, 2005

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, August 15, 2005, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes approximately 700 feet of riverbank to shore-based fishing at the Soldotna Creek Park. The area being closed is along the Kenai River between river miles 21.7 to 21.9. This area is posted with regulatory markers delineating the closed area. This area is closed to all fishing, except for fishing from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat. This restriction is necessary to protect recently repaired banks from degradation and resultant habitat loss. Under this order, anglers are NOT allowed to fish from the riparian habitat in this area. "Riparian habitat" means all areas within 10 feet in either direction from the Kenai River waterline.

These regulatory changes are effective at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 7, 2005.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.065 RIPARIAN HABITAT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (d)(25) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

#### 5 AAC 56.065 RIPARIAN HABITAT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(d) From July 1 through August 15, the following Kenai River riparian habitats are closed to all fishing, except fishing from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat:

- (25) at the Soldotna Creek Park, on the north bank of the Kenai River, between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately at river miles 21.7 and 21.9;

McKie Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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George E. Pappas,  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Protection of riparian bank habitat areas is important to assure that the fishery resources of the Kenai River are conserved for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. One threat to riparian habitat is trampling by anglers accessing a fishing site or while fishing for sockeye salmon. In March 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries granted the Department of Fish and Game regulatory authority to help mitigate potential negative impacts to shoreline habitats from bank angling and protect these habitats which are important to the fishery resources of the Kenai River.

The riparian habitat within the boundaries of Soldotna Creek Park is currently being rehabilitated. As of June 30, 700 feet of bank has been restored with the installation of root wads and has been replanted with natural vegetation. The objective of this emergency order is to prevent damage to the recently restored areas by shoreline anglers within the Soldotna Creek Park until elevated, light-penetrating boardwalks are installed and the bank vegetation has become established. This property is owned and maintained by the City of Soldotna.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.