

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-25-05

Issued at Soldotna: July 19, 2005

Effective Date: 11:01 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Expiration Date: Sunday, July 31, 2005 at
11:59 p.m. unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the time that salmon may be harvested in the personal use fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River. Effective at 11:01 p.m., Tuesday, July 19, sockeye salmon may be harvested by dipnetting, 24 hours per day.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540 (c)(1)(A), are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 11:01 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2005:

5 AAC 77.540 UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai River as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(A) from July 19 through July 31, seven days per week, 24 hours per day;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan 5 AAC 77.540 (c)(1)(A) stipulates that the Department may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery to 24-hours per day if the Department determines that the abundance of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon will be greater than two million fish. While an in-season projection of Kenai sockeye salmon has not been made at this time, based upon commercial harvest and in-river passage estimates, there is no indication that 2005 Kenai sockeye salmon run is below 2.0 million fish.

The Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest through July 18 is over 2.2 million sockeye salmon and over 428,000 sockeye salmon have passed the Kenai River sonar at River Mile 19 through July 18; almost 190,000 of which have passed in the last five days. The lower end of the optimal escapement goal

(500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved. Therefore, it is warranted to liberalize the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week beginning at 11:01 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

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, and (907) 267-2218.