

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-12-06

Issued at Homer: June 13, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 14, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the Ninilchik River from its mouth upstream to the regulatory markers located approximately 2 miles upstream, from Wednesday, June 14, 12:01 a.m. to Friday, July 14, 11:59 p.m., to fishing for hatchery king salmon. Hatchery king salmon are recognized by the healed adipose fin-clip scar. King salmon with an adipose fin shall not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The daily bag and possession limit is two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches. Fish 20 inches or greater in length must be recorded on the back of the fishing license or harvest record card. Bait is allowed. Only one single hook may be fished.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (EXCLUDING THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE). (b)(5)(B)(iv) are added to 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).

(b)(5)(B)(iv) The Ninilchik River drainage is open to sport fishing for hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in total length, 7 days per week from the mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream; hatchery king salmon may be retained 7 days per week; a hatchery king salmon is a king salmon with a clipped adipose fin as evidenced by a healed fin clip scar where the adipose fin is normally located; bag limit and possession limit of two fish. A king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; only one, single hook may be used.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon are stocked in the Ninilchik River to provide additional harvest opportunity for sport anglers while preventing over harvest of wild king salmon that return to the river. An average of 585 hatchery-produced king salmon have escaped past the sport fishery on the Ninilchik River since 1999. A department survey of the wild and hatchery composition of the harvest indicates that a similar number is likely to move past the sport fishery in 2006. Additional opportunity is available to harvest stocked fish in the Ninilchik River without negatively impacting the wild king salmon run or salmon spawning and rearing habitat. To harvest more of these stocked fish, the Ninilchik River will be open by Emergency Order for the harvest of hatchery fish only, seven days per week beginning Wednesday, June 14 at 12:01 a.m.. One hundred percent of the hatchery-produced king salmon released in the Ninilchik River had their adipose fin removed as smolt, as evidenced by a healed fin clip scar where the adipose fin is normally located. Wild fish may be recognized by the intact adipose fin. Only the use of one, single hook will be permitted to minimize release mortality.

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.