

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-06-07

Issued at: Homer, Friday, May 4, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 26, 2007

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2007,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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, to fishing for hatchery king salmon 7 days per week and restricts the gear to only one, single hook, effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 26, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2007.

This emergency order does not affect fishing for naturally-produced king salmon, which may be retained only on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends. Bait will be allowed until September 1. Anglers can use only one single-pointed hook through July 15. The use of double or treble hooks may resume July 16 and continue until September 1. The bag and possession limit is two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one fish may be a naturally-produced king salmon. The annual limit and harvest recording requirements still apply.

Hatchery king salmon are recognized by a healed adipose fin-clip scar. A person may not fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a king salmon in such a manner that prevents determination that the fish is a hatchery or wild fish until the person has stopped fishing in the Ninilchik River drainage for the day and has moved more than 100 yards away from the Ninilchik River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA. (a)(6)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 26, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2007:

5 AAC 56.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA.

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(D) is open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream; naturally-produced king salmon may be retained only on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; hatchery king salmon may be retained seven days per week; bag and possession limit of two king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one fish may be a naturally-produced king salmon; annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 56.124; 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 and possession 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.

Denby Lloyd,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi,
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon are stocked in the Ninilchik River to provide additional harvest opportunity for sport anglers while preventing overharvest of wild king salmon that return to the river. Approximately 40 percent of the expected return of hatchery-produced king salmon (around 600 fish) continues to escape above the fishery despite the liberal bag and possession limits. 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. Increasing the opportunity to harvest hatchery fish is warranted in order to harvest more of these stocked fish. One hundred percent of the hatchery-produced king salmon smolt released in the Ninilchik River was marked externally by removing the adipose fin removed and returning adults have a healed fin clip scar where the adipose fin is normally located. Wild fish may be recognized by the intact adipose fin. Restricting the gear to one single hook is warranted to facilitate the release of steelhead trout and naturally-produced king salmon.

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.