

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-12-07

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, June 11, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2007, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order allows the use of bait in flowing waters of the Kenai River drainage open to fishing for king salmon, beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday June 30, 2007. The waters in which bait may be used extends from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to a point one hundred yards downstream of the confluence of the Moose and Kenai rivers.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE LOWER SECTION OF THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA (1) (A) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2007.

5 AAC 57.121 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE LOWER SECTION OF THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA.

(1)(A) from January 1 – June 30, in the Kenai River, only one unbaited single-hook, artificial lure may be used, except that from June 12 to June 30, in the Kenai River upstream from its mouth to a point one hundred yards downstream of the confluence of the Moose and Kenai rivers, one single hook may be used and the use of bait is allowed.

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As provided by 5 AAC 57.160 KENAI RIVER AND KASILOF RIVER EARLY-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (d)(3), if the spawning escapement is projected to exceed the upper end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, liberalize the sport fishery by allowing the use of bait to achieve the optimal escapement goal.

This emergency order will allow the use of bait in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to a point one hundred yards downstream below the confluence of the Moose River and Kenai River. The slot limit remains in effect through June 30 below the Soldotna Bridge and through July 14 above the Soldotna Bridge. Only those king salmon less than 44 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained while the slot limit is in effect.

The Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 57.160) directs the Department to achieve the optimal escapement goal of 5,300 to 9,000 king salmon. Through Saturday, June 9, the total inriver run is approximately 6,192 king salmon and the estimated total harvest is 253 king salmon below the Soldotna Bridge. The ADF&G Kenai River creel survey indicates the harvest of king salmon has been lower than usual due to the combination of turbid water conditions and low angler effort.

The Department projects a total run of approximately 12,000 to 17,000 fish and a spawning escapement in excess of the upper range goal of 9,000 fish. Therefore, it is warranted to liberalize this fishery.

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.