

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-31-07

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Effective Date: 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2007, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the hours salmon may be taken by dip net in the personal use fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River. Effective 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 2007, sockeye salmon may be harvested by dipnetting 24 hours per day.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540 UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (c)(1)(A) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 2007, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2007:

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

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

(1) in the Kenai River as follows:

(A) from July 25, 2007, through July 31, 2007, seven days per week, 24 hours per day;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan 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.

As of July 25, 2007, the Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest of Kenai River sockeye salmon is approximately 1,600,000 fish and over 300,000 sockeye salmon have passed the Kenai River sonar at

River Mile 19 through July 24. ADF&G inseason assessments indicate the late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon run will exceed 2,000,000 fish and 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.

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.