

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-23-11

Issued at Soldotna: Friday, July 22, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 24, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery, beginning 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 24, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011. Any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet personal use salmon management plan. (c)(1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 24, 2011 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet personal use salmon fishery management plan.

(c)(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon may not be retained and any king salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As directed in 5 AAC 21.359. *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* the department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions.

The *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* directs the department to achieve the sustainable escapement goal of 17,800 to 35,700 king salmon. Through July 21, all indices used to assess the abundance of late-run king salmon in the Kenai River indicate a run that is well below average for the third consecutive year. All department assessment methods indicate the late run is similar to the runs of 2009 and 2010. The final 2009 escapement estimate was below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) and the 2010 escapement was likely below the SEG. Based on the similarities of the indices in 2011 to these years, it is likely the

escapement goal will not be achieved with current personal use fishing exploitation levels. Therefore, it is warranted to prohibit the retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use dipnet fishery.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-17-11 which prohibited the use of bait and prohibited the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length in designated waters of the Kenai River expired 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 2011.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-20-11 which prohibited the use of bait and prohibited the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length in designated waters of the Kenai River remains effective through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

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.