

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT

OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-52-12

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 9, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, August 15, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-48-12, issued Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Regulatory provisions for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area revert to those embodied under 5 AAC 57.121. This emergency order reopens the Kenai River drainage downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna to the use of bait and multiple hooks beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 9, 2012.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order 2-KS-1-48-12 is rescinded.

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. (a) is to ensure adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River.

The cumulative DIDSON sonar passage estimate through August 6 is 16,869 king salmon, compared to a cumulative DIDSON sonar passage estimate thru August 6 of 17,795 in 2010, and 20,012 in 2011. Even though all data on late-run king salmon indicate low abundance of fish this year, severe restrictions to all fisheries have reduced harvest to minimal levels. The DIDSON based king salmon escapement will be larger than the past two years and will likely provide for an adequate spawning escapement based on comparison with previous years. This determination could not have been made without the relatively strong and sustained passage of fish observed since July 25.

The current estimated number of king salmon in the river at this time warrant removal of the bait and hook restrictions.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-48-12, which prohibited the use of bait and multiple hooks in the Kenai River downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna, is rescinded.

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.