

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-21-12

Issued at: Homer, Monday, June 25, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes waters of the Anchor River and Ninilchik River, from the mouth upstream approximately two miles to ADF&G markers, to sport fishing for any species of fish, beginning 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012.

### 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 (a)(2)(C) and (a)(6)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012:

#### **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)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek reservoir:

(C) from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is closed;

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(C) from its mouth upstream approximately two miles to an ADF&G regulatory marker, sport fishing is closed;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist II

### JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and throughout Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. All indices of abundance suggest king salmon run strength in the lower Kenai Peninsula is comparable with poor run strength trends experienced by other king salmon stocks in the upper Kenai Peninsula and upper Cook Inlet.

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for king salmon in the Anchor River is 3,800–10,000 fish. The Anchor River escapement of king salmon through June 24, 2012 was 2,979 fish. From 2004-2008, 69 percent to 92 percent of the Anchor River king salmon escapement was upstream of the salmon weir by June 24. At this time it is uncertain that the escapement goal for king salmon will be achieved; therefore, restrictions are necessary to protect Anchor River-bound and upstream migrating king salmon needed to achieve the spawning escapement goal.

The SEG for king salmon in the Ninilchik River is 550-1,300 wild king salmon through the weir from July 3-31. The egg take goal is 111 king salmon pairs. In 2007 and 2009, escapement was below the goal; and near the lower end in 2008, 2010, and 2011. Egg take goals were not reached in 2007 - 2009. The egg take goal was reached in 2011 by operating the weir additional days. Restrictions are necessary to achieve the escapement and eggtake goal.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-08-12 which relocated ADF&G regulatory markers on Anchor River downstream approximately 1,000 feet of the junction of the North and South forks, remains in effect.

**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.