

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-22-12

Issued at: Homer, Monday, June 25, 2012

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order limits sport fishing gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing in the Ninilchik River, Deep Creek, Stariski Creek and Anchor River drainages beginning 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 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 (a)(2)(A), (a)(5)(A), (a)(6)(A), and (a)(10)(A) are superseded by this emergency order.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., Tuesday, July 31, 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:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(10) Stariski drainage:
 - (A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

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 king salmon escapement through June 24, 2012 was 2,979 fish. From 2004–2008, 69 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 that are 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 egg take goal.

To minimize the shifting of effort due to conservation actions for the Anchor River and Ninilchik River, it is warranted to restrict fishing gear on Deep Creek and Stariski Creek as well.

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, and Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-21-12 which closed waters of the Anchor River and Ninilchik River to sport fishing for any species of fish, remain 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.