

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-23-12

Issued at: Anchorage, 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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 prohibits the retention of king salmon while sport fishing within one mile of shore in the salt waters of Cook Inlet south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River to the latitude of Bluff Point beginning 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012. Catch-and-release fishing for king salmon is allowed, but king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon that are caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. (b)(1) and (b)(1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order.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., Sunday, July 15, 2012:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(b)(1) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore:

(A) sport fishing is allowed, except king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon that are caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Thomas D. Vania
Regional Management Biologist

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. Sport fishing restrictions to inriver fisheries have been enacted on the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, Kasilof River, and Kenai River (early- and late-run stocks) in an effort to achieve adequate escapement into these streams. King salmon of Cook Inlet origin generally have a higher probability of being harvested near shore than do king salmon from other locations. Mature (spawners) king salmon also tend to be harvested near shore at a greater rate than immature (non-local) king salmon. Therefore, it is justified to prohibit retention of king salmon in

salt waters within one mile while these locally spawning king salmon, including Kenai River late-run king salmon and other stocks mentioned above, migrate through the area and into fresh water.

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.