

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-03-12

Issued at: Kodiak, Friday
March 21, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 1, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.,
Wednesday, July 25, 2012, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Karluk River drainage. King salmon may not be possessed or retained; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in the Karluk River drainage, excluding Karluk Lake. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 1, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak area. (b)(1)(E)(i) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 1, 2012 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak area.

(b)(1)(E) the Ayakulik and Karluk River drainages are closed to sport fishing for king salmon from July 26-December 31;

(i) in the Karluk River drainage from June 1 through July 25, king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. With the exception of Karluk Lake, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used in the Karluk River drainage.

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Donn Tracy,
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Karluk River king salmon is 3,000 to 6,000 fish. Despite management actions to reduce king salmon harvest in sport, commercial and subsistence fisheries, the king salmon BEG has been achieved only once since 2006. In January 2011, the Board of Fisheries designated Karluk River king salmon a stock of concern. Escapements have improved slightly since 2009, and angler effort will likely be low in 2012 based on observed effort in recent years. However, recent poor runs and the stock of concern designation warrant a restriction to non-retention of all king salmon, regardless of size. As an added measure to reduce the probability of hooking mortality on released king salmon, the use of bait is prohibited within Karluk drainage below Karluk Lake. Harvest opportunity may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of the Karluk River king salmon run indicates the BEG will be attained.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

None

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.