

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-19-12

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, June 19, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012. "Single-hook" means a fish hook with only one point.

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. (8)(B)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, 2012 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 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.

(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

- (B) the following special provisions apply in that portion downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:
- (ii) in flowing waters, from June 22 – June 30, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

As provided by 5 AAC 57.160 Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan (c), the department shall manage the Kasilof River early-run king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal, to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run while ensuring adequate escapement of naturally-produced king salmon, and to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River.

The department has determined that an emergency order to close the early-run king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River drainage, effective Friday, June 22, 2012, will likely result in an increase in the sport

fishing effort and catch of naturally-produced king salmon in the Kasilof River. The department manages the Kasilof River king salmon sport fishery to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 650 to 1,700 naturally-produced king salmon as monitored through a weir at a department facility located on Crooked Creek. The escapement of naturally-produced king salmon into Crooked Creek in 2011 was 654 fish. King salmon runs on the Kenai Peninsula are of below average run strength and it is possible that the escapement goal may not be met and/or broodstock may not be available for egg takes in 2012. Therefore, to minimize the effect of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the department's ability to achieve adequate escapement into Crooked Creek, it is warranted to prohibit the use of bait and multiple-hooks to increase the escapement of naturally-produced fish.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-12-12, which prohibited the retention of naturally-produced king salmon in the Kasilof River Drainage sport fishery, 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.