

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-03-13

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, April 18, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Sunday,
June 30, 2013, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes waters of the Anchor River drainage from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South forks to sport fishing each Wednesday during the king salmon season and decreases the waters of the Anchor River drainage open to sport fishing by relocating the ADF&G regulatory marker downstream approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013.

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 (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(C)(i) and (a)(2)(E) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013:

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 open

(i) on the weekend, and the Monday following that weekend, before Memorial Day weekend and the following four weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; and

(E) sport fishing is open for king salmon from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks only on the weekend, and the Monday following that weekend, before Memorial Day weekend and the following four weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, the bag and possession limit is one fish; a person may not retain more than two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length each year from the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and all marine 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.) combined; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from either Ninilchik River, Deep Creek or Anchor River may not sport fish in any of these drainages for the rest of that day; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800–10,000 fish. The SEG was achieved in 2012 with preseason inriver restrictions and with inseason restrictions on the inriver and marine sport fisheries. From 2009–2011, the SEG was not achieved despite inseason inriver and marine restrictions to reduce king salmon harvest in the sport fishery. The 2013 outlook for the Anchor River king salmon run is below the historical average and is expected to be similar to the 2009–2012 runs. The recent poor king salmon runs in Lower Cook Inlet streams and uncertainty over how quickly the runs may rebound justify starting the 2013 season with a reduced amount of fishing time and area. It is anticipated that these restrictions combined with annual limit and gear reductions will provide the greatest potential for achieving escapement goals during 2013 and provide fishing opportunity throughout the season.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-04-13 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River and all marine 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.). In addition a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from Deep Creek, Anchor River, or Ninilchik River may not sport fish in any of those drainages for the rest of the day. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-05-13 limits sport fishing gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013, 2013.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-06-13 reduces the bag and possession limit for king salmon in the Ninilchik River drainage to one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. During the 3-day weekend fishing periods that begin on Memorial Day weekend, anglers may retain either a hatchery king salmon or a naturally-produced (wild) king salmon. Beginning in July, anglers may only retain hatchery king salmon. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, October, 31, 2013.

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.