

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-43-13

Issued at: Soldotna, Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 25, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-36-13, issued Monday, July 15, 2013. This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, but less than 55 inches in length, while sport fishing in waters of the Kenai River drainage from its mouth, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 25, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Harvest is allowed for king salmon less than 20 inches in length and 55 inches or greater in length.

This emergency order also maintains the king salmon sport fishing closure in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013.

In the waters described above, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used. King salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. (2)(A)(i) and (3)(A) are superseded and (3)(C) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 25, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013:

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(2) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length as follows:

(A)(i) from July 15 – July 31, that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon; from July 25-July 31, in that portion of the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, only king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained, king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and less than 55 inches in length may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(3) king salmon less than 20 inches in length as follows;

(A) from July 15 – July 31, in unstocked lakes and ponds and that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, are closed to sport fishing for king salmon;

(C) in unstocked lakes and ponds and that portion of the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, may be taken from July 25 – July 31; bag and possession limit of 10 fish;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Kenai River late-run king salmon is 15,000 to 30,000 king salmon. As of July 22, the DIDSON sonar cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 8,291 fish. The sport harvest of king salmon in the Kenai River as estimated by an in-season creel survey was 1,306 fish. At the current rate of harvest, the projected escapement is below the SEG. Therefore, it is warranted to limit the harvest of king salmon in an effort to achieve the SEG.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-36-13 that closed a portion of the Kenai River Drainage to sport fishing for king salmon fishery is rescinded.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-24-13 prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge. This emergency order remains in effect through 11:59 p.m., July 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.