

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-35-13

Issued at: Homer, Friday, July 12, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2013

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October, 31, 2013, unless superseded by  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

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits sport fishing for king salmon in the Ninilchik River drainage effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, October, 31, 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 (a)(6)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, October, 31, 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)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(D) closed to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist II

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Ninilchik River sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 550–1,300 wild king salmon through the weir from July 3-31. The 2013 egg-take goal is 104 king salmon pairs.

The 2013 Ninilchik River run is expected to be similar to the 2007–2012 king salmon runs and below the historical average. King salmon escapement was below the SEG in 2007 and 2009, but was met in 2008, and 2010–2012. Egg-take goals were not met from 2007–2009 and 2012 despite extending weir operations. In 2010, egg-takes were not needed for stocking, but if they were, the number of king salmon was insufficient to meet egg-take goals. Inriver sport fishing restrictions occurred each year from 2010–2012, and restrictions occurred in the nearby marine sport fishery in 2012.

The Ninilchik River and the nearby marine fishery were previously closed through July 15 (EO 2-KS-17-13; 2-KS-18-13) to conserve king salmon. From July 3-10, 2013, the total weir count was 96 wild and 11 hatchery-reared king salmon. On average the total weir count from July 3-10 was 47 king salmon from 2007-2012 and 342 king salmon from 1999-2006. On July 11, 2013 beach seine catches from the mouth to approximately 2 miles upstream indicated the majority of king salmon 20" or larger in the lower river were wild king salmon (92%).

The recent poor king salmon runs in Lower Cook Inlet streams, uncertainty over how quickly the runs may rebound, and early indicators of run strength in the Ninilchik River justify continuing the current closure through the remainder of the season in order to achieve the Ninilchik River escapement and egg-take goals.

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.