

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-25-13

Issued at: Soldotna, Thursday, June 27, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes approximately 475 feet of riverbank on the Kenai River to fishing from shore. The area being closed is on the north bank of the Kenai River near river mile 22 from the mouth of Soldotna Creek upstream approximately 475 feet. This location is adjacent to Soldotna Creek Park, located in the City of Soldotna and is posted with regulatory markers delineating the closed area. This area is closed to all fishing, except fishing from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat. Under this emergency order, anglers are NOT allowed to fish from the riparian habitat in this area. "Riparian habitat" means all areas within 10 feet in either direction from the Kenai River waterline. This restriction will protect the riverbank from angler impacts during the sockeye salmon sport fishing season.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.180. Riparian Habitat Fishery Management Plan for the Kenai River Drainage Area. (d)(25) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, 2013 through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2013:

5 AAC 57.180. Riparian Habitat Fishery Management Plan for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(d) From July 1 through August 15, the following Kenai River riparian habitats are closed to all fishing, except fishing from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat:

- (25) on the north bank of the Kenai River, between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately at river miles 22.1 and 22.2, immediately upstream of the Soldotna Creek and Kenai River confluence;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Protection of riparian bank habitat areas is important to assure that the fishery resources of the Kenai River are conserved for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Presently, 24 riparian fishery

habitat closures of public lands are managed by the Riparian Habitat Fishery Management Plan for the Kenai River Drainage Area in the Kenai River Special Management Area, encompassing approximately 17.5 river miles of riparian habitat. Management rights of these state-owned parcels of land along the Kenai River were assigned to the department. The warranty deed and conservation easement for parcels in this plan contain restrictive covenants including restrictions to sport fishing, along the Kenai River shoreline of parcels. Since the Alaska Board of Fisheries granted the Department of Fish and Game regulatory authority to help mitigate potential negative impacts to shoreline habitats from bank angling, it is warranted to close this public parcel of Kenai River shoreline to fishing. The warranty deed and conservation easement for this parcel contain the same restrictive covenants as other shore parcels listed in the Riparian Habitat Fishery Management Plan for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

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.