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Kenai River Drainage

Kenai River Tributaries
GENERAL REGULATIONS

Inclusive waters: The mainstem Kenai River from its mouth, denoted by a line from the green light tower on the north shore and an ADF&G marker on the south shore, upstream to and including Skilak Lake, except within a ½-mile radius of the upper Kenai River inlet (see page 49 for Upper Kenai River regulations).

The Fishing Season for all species is open year-round unless otherwise noted below.

KING SALMON

- Kenai River mouth upstream to 300 yards below Slikok Creek:
  - January 1–June 30: 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 36 inches in length.
  - July 1–July 31: 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.

- 300 yards below Slikok Creek upstream to Skilak Lake:
  - January 1–July 31: 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 36 inches in length.

- Skilak Lake:
  - Closed to king salmon fishing.
  - January 1–July 31: No person may possess a king salmon that is filleted or disfigured to prevent measurement until the fish has been permanently offloaded from a boat or removed from the riverbank fishing site where the fish was hooked and taken from the water.

- King salmon 20 inches or longer:
  - There is a combined annual limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer from the waters of the following areas: Cook Inlet Salt Waters, West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, Kenai River and Kenai Peninsula. Of these 5 total king salmon no more than 2 may be taken from the Kenai River.
  - January 1–June 30: King salmon 20 inches or longer but less than 28 inches in length are not included in this annual limit.
  - A king salmon 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt or fresh water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. A person may not remove a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  - No person, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the Kenai River, may, on that same day, fish from a boat for any species of fish in the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake.
  - Anglers who keep a king salmon 20 inches or longer (except for kings measuring 20-28 inches in length - mentioned in bold above) must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.
  - King salmon less than 20 inches:
    - 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with coho (in season), sockeye, chum, or pink salmon less than 16 inches in length (see table below).

Fishing from a vessel when the anchor is dragging is prohibited. If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to again hold the vessel in a fixed position.
COHO SALMON
- After taking a bag limit of coho (silver) salmon from the Kenai River, a person may not fish in the Kenai River downstream from the Soldotna Bridge on that same day.
- Fishing for coho salmon is closed November 1 - June 30 upstream of Bings Landing.
- 16 inches or longer:
  - A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from fresh water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. A person may not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  - For seasons and limits see table below.
- Less than 16 inches: See table below.

SOCKEYE AND CHUM SALMON
- 16 inches or longer: See table below.
- Less than 16 inches: See table below.

PINK SALMON
- 16 inches or longer: 6 per day, 6 in possession.
- Less than 16 inches: See table below.

RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT
- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN
- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

ARCTIC GRAYLING
- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

LAKE TROUT
- 20 inches or longer: 2 per day, 2 in possession.
- Less than 20 inches: 10 per day/10 in possession.

BURBOT
- 2 per day, 2 in possession.

OTHER FINFISH
- No limit.

METHODS AND MEANS
Landing a salmon:
- Salmon may be landed only with the aid of a landing net or by hand. No gaffs are allowed.

Drift-only Mondays (downstream of Skilak Lake):
- Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake:
  - Mondays, May 1–July 31 (except Memorial Day):
    - Between the outlet of Skilak Lake and the Sterling Hwy bridge in Soldotna:
      - Closed to fishing from any motorized vessel (a motorized vessel is one that has a motor on board).
    - Between the Sterling Hwy bridge and the mouth of the Kenai River:
      - Closed to fishing from any motorized vessel that has on board more than one single motor greater than 10 hp. A motor 10 hp or less may be used only downstream of an ADF&G marker at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has stopped for the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than 16 inches: COHO, CHUM, PINK, AND SOCKEYE SALMON</th>
<th>Less than 20 inches: KING SALMON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1 - June 30</td>
<td>Sockeye, chum, or pink salmon less than 16 inches in length and king salmon less than 20 inches in length. 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination. <strong>No retention of coho salmon.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 - July 31</td>
<td>Sockeye, chum, pink, or coho salmon less than 16 inches in length and king salmon less than 20 inches in length. 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination. <strong>No retention of coho salmon.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 1 - Nov. 30</td>
<td>Sockeye, chum, pink, or coho salmon less than 16 inches in length. 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination. <strong>No retention of king salmon.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1 - Dec. 31</td>
<td>Sockeye, pink, or chum salmon less than 16 inches in length. 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination. <strong>No retention of coho or king salmon.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...continued
Gear restrictions:
• In flowing waters, beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook or be free sliding on the entire length of the line or leader.

The following gear restrictions are listed in upstream progression from the mouth of the Kenai River to Skilak Lake. Selected areas near tributary streams have special tackle and king salmon regulations that override the gear restrictions below. See Special Regulations.

• From the mouth of the Kenai River to ADF&G regulatory marker at Skilak Lake:
  • January 1–June 30:
    • Only one unbaited, single-hook lure is allowed.

• From the mouth of the Kenai River to ADF&G regulatory markers located about 300 yd downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek:
  • July 1–July 31:
    • Bait is allowed, but anglers must still use only one single-hook lure.

• The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 300 yd downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker at Skilak Lake:
  • July 1–December 31:
    • Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure is allowed.

• From the mouth of the Kenai River to an ADF&G regulatory marker at Skilak Lake:
  • November 1–December 31:
    • Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure is allowed.

• The Kenai River from the Upper Killey River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker at Skilak Lake:
  • September 1–December 31:
    • Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure is allowed.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

- From Bings Landing to an ADF&G regulatory marker:
  • November 1–December 31:
    • Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure is allowed.

- The Kenai River from the Upper Killey River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker at Skilak Lake:
  • September 1–December 31:
    • Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure is allowed.

That portion of the Kenai River between ADF&G regulatory markers 250 yd downstream from the upper breakwater at the Centennial Campground boat launch upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna:

- May 1–July 31:
  • Closed to fishing from boats.

Soldotna Centennial Campground boat launch lagoon:

- July 1–August 30:
  • Closed to all fishing.

Funny River confluence area:

- The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile downstream of the mouth of Funny River upstream to ADF&G markers about 200 yd upstream from the mouth of the Funny River:
  • May 1–July 31:
    • Closed to fishing for king salmon.
    • Closed to fishing from boats.
    • Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 92 for definition of “artificial fly”).

- The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 300 yd downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 300 yd upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek:
  • May 1–July 31:
    • Back-trolling prohibited. A person may not sport fish for any species of fish from a vessel that is making upstream progress relative to the water with the aid of a motor.

- The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 200 yd upstream from the mouth of the Funny River:
  • May 1–July 31:
    • Closed to fishing for king salmon.
    • Closed to fishing from boats.
    • Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 92 for definition of “artificial fly”).
Morgan’s Hole:

The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about 100 yd downstream from the landing at Morgan’s Hole (river mile 31) upstream to an ADF&G marker at the north section line of Section 28, T5N, R9W, Seward Meridian:
- May 1-July 31:
  - Closed to fishing from boats.

Moose River confluence area:
- The Kenai River from ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yd downstream of the mouth of the Moose River, upstream to ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yd upstream of the mouth of the Moose River:
  - May 1-July 31:
    - Closed to fishing from boats.

Lower Killey River confluence area:

The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about ¼ mile downstream of the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River:
- May 1–July 31:
  - Closed to fishing for king salmon.
  - Closed to fishing from boats.
  - Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 92 for definition of “artificial fly”).

The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to Skilak Lake:
- May 1–June 10:
  - Closed to all fishing.

Skilak Lake outlet:
The Kenai River from the swan sanctuary sign at the outlet of Skilak Lake downstream approximately 3 miles to the corresponding swan sanctuary sign near river mile 47:
- August 1–December 31:
  - Closed to fishing from an anchored vessel. “Anchored vessel” means using an anchor or any device other than oars, paddles or outboard motor to slow or stop a boat’s downstream drift.

Skilak Lake:
- Closed to king salmon fishing.
- Except that part of the lake within ½ mile of the upper Kenai River inlet:
  - Bait and multiple hooks allowed year-round.
Public Access Points =

1. Mouth of the Kenai River
2. Port of Kenai - City of Kenai - Boat Launch
4. Cunningham Park - City of Kenai - Day-Use Picnic Area
5. The Pillars - Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch
6. Near CUNNINGHAM PARK - North bank between river miles 6.6 and 6.8
7. EAGLE ROCK - South bank between river miles 10.7 and 12.0
8. STATE-OWNED ISLANDS - Between river miles 11 and 15 (see lines D-H below)
9. THE PILLARS area - North bank between river miles 12.4 and 12.6
10. HONEYMOON COVE area - South bank between river miles 12.5 and 13.0
11. HONEYMOON COVE - North bank between river miles 13.0 and 13.2
12. near FALLING-IN-HOLE - East bank between river miles 13.2 and 13.5
13. near STEWARTS LANDING - North bank between river miles 13.6 and 14.0
14. WEST BANK - Between river miles 14.0 and 14.4
15. near BIG EDDY ROAD - South bank between river miles 14.4 and 14.6
17. Big Eddy - Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area
18. STATE-OWNED ISLANDS - Between river miles 17.0 and 17.3

Visitor Center
- Campground
- Day Use
- Boat Launch
- Riverbank Closed

Riverbank Closure =

J Near POACHER’S COVE - West bank between river miles 17.5 and 17.6
K NORTH BANK - Between river miles 18.6 and 18.8
B Slikok Creek - Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area
L NORTH BANK - Between river miles 18.9 and 20.2
9 Centennial Park Campground - City of Soldotna - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
M Near SOLDOTNA VISITOR’S CENTER - South bank between river miles 20.9 and 21.0
10 Soldotna Visitor’s Center - Boardwalk
11 Soldotna Creek Park - City of Soldotna - Day-Use Picnic Area, Boardwalk Access
12 Gilmann river center - Alaska State Parks - Day-Use
13 Swiftwater Campground - City of Soldotna - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch, Boardwalk Access
N SOLDOTNA CREEK - North bank from the mouth of Soldotna Creek upstream between river miles 22.0 to 22.1
14 Rotary Park - City of Soldotna - Day-Use
O Near SOLDOTNA AIRPORT - South bank between river miles 22.7 and 23.5
15 Moose Range Meadows - Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Day-Use
P SOUTH BANK - Between river miles 23.8 and 24.2
16 Keystone Dr. (end of road) boat launch - Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Boat Launch
Q SOUTH BANK/FUNNY RIVER - River mile 26.4 to 30.0
**KENAI RIVER - Seasonal Riverbank Closures and Public Access Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Public Access Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funny River Campground</td>
<td>Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan's Landing</td>
<td>Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boardwalks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near KEYSTONE DRIVE</td>
<td>North bank from river mile 27.3 (upstream edge of boat ramp at the end of Keystone Drive) to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary at river mile 28 (near the powerline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANSEN RIVER RANCH</td>
<td>South bank from river mile 31.5 to 32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAYMAS SUBDIVISION</td>
<td>North bank, river mile 31.8 to 32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NILNUNQA</td>
<td>South bank between river miles 36.0 and 36.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izaak Walton State Recreation Site</td>
<td>Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bing's Landing</td>
<td>Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near KENAI KEYS</td>
<td>North bank between ADF&amp;G markers at river mile 44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMPSON'S HOLE</td>
<td>North bank between river miles 45.8 and 46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Skilak Lake</td>
<td>Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Skilak Lake</td>
<td>Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden Lake</td>
<td>Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim's Landing</td>
<td>Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near JIM'S LANDING</td>
<td>North bank from river mile 69.7 to an ADF&amp;G marker just downstream of the boat launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Information Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Highway Milepost 57 Pullout</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian River / Sportsman's Landing</td>
<td>U.S. Forest Service - Foot-Traffic Ferry, Boat Launch, Day-Use Picnic Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the RUSSIAN RIVER FERRY/SPORTSMAN'S LANDING</td>
<td>North bank, upstream of the ferry crossing, between river miles 73.5 and 73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian River Campground</td>
<td>U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Access Points** = [ ]  
**Riverbank Closure** = [ ]
29 Cooper Creek Campground U.S. Forest Service - Campground
30 Cooper Landing Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch
Z COOPER LANDING BOAT LAUNCH
South bank near river mile 82.0, from the bridge downstream about 1,000 ft to an ADF&G marker (just past the Sterling Highway bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake)
31 Quartz Creek Campground U.S. Forest Service - Campground
32 Crescent Creek Campground U.S. Forest Service - Campground
33 Trail River Campground U.S. Forest Service - Campground
34 Ptarmigan Creek Campground U.S. Forest Service - Campground
35 Primrose Campground U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Boat Launch

Public Access Points =

Riverbank Closure =

Doroshin Bay, Skilak Lake
ALASKA STATE PARKS

BOATING REGULATIONS ON THE MAINSTEM KENAI RIVER

The Alaska State Legislature created the Kenai River Special Management Area in 1984 and charged Alaska State Parks with its management. Here are their boating regulations for the Kenai River, summarized for your convenience.

For more information on boat motor regulations on the Kenai River, call the Donald E. Gilman River Center at (907) 714-2470.

PASSENGER LIMITS—no more than 6 persons are allowed on board, including operator (except for guided vessels in July, below the outlet of Skilak Lake, which may have no more than 5 persons on board).

TYING UP—no one may tie up a boat to state land, easement, or rights-of-way more than 24 consecutive hours.

ANCHORING—no one may anchor a boat on the Kenai River that obstructs a primary traffic channel or drift fishing channel.

HORSEPOWER RESTRICTIONS—no one may operate a boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.2 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) with outboard or combination of outboards having a total propshaft rating greater than 50 HP. Propshaft horsepower rating means the boat motor's original manufacturer rated and labeled horsepower. Adding a jet drive unit to a motor does not change the propshaft horsepower rating of the motor powerhead and driveshaft configuration. These horsepower limitations do not apply to the operation of a boat on Kenai Lake, on Skilak Lake, and on the Kenai River between the Kenai Lake Bridge and river mile 80.7 (see map on page 65).

FOUR-STROKE/DIRECT FUEL INJECTION MOTOR REQUIREMENTS—regardless of time of year or motor horsepower, no one may operate a motorized boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.2 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) unless the motor is a four-stroke motor or a direct fuel injection motor. This includes boats operated on Kenai and Skilak Lakes.

BOAT LENGTH REQUIREMENTS—except on Kenai and Skilak lakes, no one may operate a motorized boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.0 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) that exceeds overall boat size to no more than 21 feet long and 106 inches wide.

DRIFT AREAS, MOTOR USE PROHIBITED—

- Operating a boat by use of a motor is prohibited year-round on the Kenai River, from Skilak Lake inlet upstream to river mile 80.7 (see map on page 65).
- From March 15 to June 14, operating a boat by use of a motor on the Kenai River is also prohibited from river mile 47 upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake (see map on page 71).

TIPS – IF YOU PLAN TO RELEASE YOUR FISH

Tackle
- Use strong line to bring your catch in quickly.
- Fish caught with flies or lures survive more often than fish caught with bait.
- Overly large hooks can damage mouth parts or eyes. Small hooks may be taken deeply by fish.
- Use steel hooks that will quickly rust out; avoid using stainless steel hooks. Use pliers to pinch barbs down.

Landing your catch
- Land your fish as carefully and quickly as possible. Avoid removing the fish from the water.
- If you are ice-fishing, don't lay your fish on the ice.

Removing the hook
- Remove the hook quickly and gently, keeping the fish underwater.
- Use long-nosed pliers or a hemostat to back the hook out.
- When a fish is hooked deeply, cut the line near the hook. It is better to cut your line rather than injure an active fish.

Reviving your catch
- Point your fish into a slow current or gently move it back and forth until its gills are working and it maintains its balance.
- When the fish recovers and attempts to swim out of your hands, let it go.
- Large fish may take some time to revive.
GENERAL REGULATIONS

Inclusive waters: The mainstem Kenai River, from waters of Skilak Lake within a ½-mile radius of the river inlet upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, including the Russian River drainage.

The Fishing Season for all species is closed from May 1–June 10 in all flowing waters unless otherwise noted below.

KING SALMON
• Closed to king salmon fishing.

OTHER SALMON
• Coho salmon:
  • Season: July 1–October 31.
    • A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from fresh water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. A person may not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  • Pink, chum and sockeye (red) salmon:
    • 16 inches or longer:
      • Pink salmon:
        • 6 per day, 6 in possession.
      • Coho, Sockeye (red) and chum salmon:
        • 3 per day, 6 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be coho salmon through August 31.
    • Less than 16 inches:
      • 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.

RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT
• 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN
• 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

METHODS AND MEANS

Bait restrictions:
• In flowing waters, beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook or be free to slide on the entire length of the line or leader. See page 7.
• Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be ¾ inch or less.

River bank closures:
• There are special bank access regulations on the Kenai River. See pages 56–58 for public access points on the Kenai River.

Gear restrictions:
• Salmon may be landed only with the aid of a landing net or by hand.
• See page 59 for motorboat restrictions.
**KENAI RIVER - Upper Kenai River Mainstem and Russian River**

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**Kenai River/Russian River confluence area:**

- The Kenai River upstream of the powerline to ADF&G markers placed just downstream of the ferry crossing:
  - Closed to all fishing from May 1 - June 10, however, from June 11–August 20, these waters are fly-fishing-only waters. See page 7 for a description of allowed gear.
  - Sockeye and coho salmon 16 inches or longer: See table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 11 - June 30</td>
<td>Sockeye salmon. 3 per day, 6 in possession.</td>
<td><strong>No retention of coho salmon.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 - Aug. 20</td>
<td>Sockeye or coho salmon. 3 per day, 6 in possession, but only 1 per day, 1 in possession may be coho salmon.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 21 - Oct. 31</td>
<td>Coho salmon. 1 per day, 1 in possession.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SANCTUARY AREA:**

- Closed to all fishing 5/01 - 6/10
- Open 6/11 - 4/30
- Fly-fishing only 6/11 - 8/20

**Upper Kenai River and Russian River Confluence area**

- **Gear in Fly-Fishing-Only Waters:**
  - One unweighted, single-hook, unbaited fly with gap between point and shank of 3/8" or less is allowed. The fly must weigh less than 1/4 oz. Artificial flies are defined on page 92.
  - If weights are used, they must be at least 18" ahead of the fly.

**Russian River:**

- The Russian River from 100 yd upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G marker 600 yd downstream of the falls:
  - Closed to all fishing from May 1 - June 10, however, from June 11–August 20, these waters are fly-fishing-only waters. See page 7 for a description of allowed gear.

- **Coho salmon:**
  - **Season:** July 1–September 30.
    - 1 per day, 1 in possession.
    - A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from fresh water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. A person may not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.

  - **Sockeye salmon:**
    - **Season:** June 11–August 20.
      - 3 per day, 6 in possession.
      - Upstream from an ADF&G marker about 600 yd downstream of the falls:
        - **Closed to all salmon fishing.**
        - Closed to all fishing from May 1 - June 10.

    - **Lower and Upper Russian Lakes:**
      - Rainbow/steelhead trout limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 may be 20 inches or longer.
      - Dolly Varden limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 may be 20 inches or longer.

    - **Upper Russian/Goat Creek, upstream from ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream from its confluence with Upper Russian Lake:**
      - Fishing for all species is closed from May 1-June 10 and from August 1-August 31.

- The Kenai River upstream of approximately river mile 80.7 to the outlet of Kenai Lake:
  - An angler may not sport fish from a vessel during motor use or after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on that same day.

...continued
The Kenai River upstream from ADF&G markers placed just downstream of the ferry crossing to ADF&G markers about 300 yd upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing (including the waters around the upstream end of the island in front of the Russian River mouth), and the Russian River from its mouth upstream about 100 yd to ADF&G markers:

- Fishing for all species is closed from May 1-July 14, however, from July 15–August 20 these waters are fly-fishing-only waters. See page 7 for a description of allowed gear.
- Sockeye and coho salmon 16 inches or longer limits: See table below.

### 16 inches or longer: COHO AND SOCKEYE SALMON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 15 - Aug. 20</td>
<td>Sockeye or coho salmon. 3 per day, 6 in possession in combination, but only 1 per day, 1 in possession may be coho salmon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 21 - Oct. 31</td>
<td>Coho salmon. 1 per day, 1 in possession.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL REGULATIONS

Inclusive waters: Tributaries of the Kenai River between the outlet of Kenai Lake and the mouth of the Kenai River (except those noted below):

- **Upper Kenai River tributaries** are those that join the Kenai River between Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake, and **DOES NOT** include the Russian River, the mainstem Kenai River, or Skilak Lake.

- **Lower Kenai River tributaries** are those that join Skilak Lake and the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Cook Inlet, and **DOES NOT** include the mainstem Kenai River or Skilak Lake.

The Fishing Season for all species is open year-round in lakes and ponds unless otherwise noted below. The fishing season for all species is closed from May 1 - June 10 in all flowing waters unless otherwise noted below.

**KING SALMON**
- Closed to king salmon fishing.

**OTHER SALMON**
- In flowing waters:
  - Closed to all salmon fishing.
- In lakes and ponds:
  - 10 per day/10 in possession—must be less than 16 inches in length.

**ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN**
- In flowing waters:
  - 1 per day, 1 in possession—must be less than 16 inches long.
- In lakes and ponds:
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession—only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.

**RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT**
- In flowing waters:
  - 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
  - In lakes and ponds:
    - 2 per day, 2 in possession—only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.
    - 20 inches or longer:
      - There is a total annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer taken north of the latitude of Point Adam, from the waters of the following areas: West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Lake drainages, Kenai River tributaries, and Kenai Peninsula.
      - Anglers who keep a rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.

**LAKE TROUT**
- In flowing waters:
  - 20 inches or longer: 2 per day, 2 in possession.
  - Less than 20 inches: 10 per day/10 in possession.

**ARCTIC GRAYLING**
- In lakes, ponds and flowing waters:
  - 5 per day, 5 in possession.

**BURBOT**
- In flowing waters, lakes and ponds:
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession.

**OTHER FINFISH**
- In flowing waters, lakes and ponds: No limit.

METHODS AND MEANS

Bait restrictions:
- In all flowing waters of the Kenai River tributaries:
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free to slide on the entire length of the line or leader.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.

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LOWER KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Lower Kenai River tributaries are those that join Skilak Lake and the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Cook Inlet, and DOES NOT include the mainstem Kenai River or Skilak Lake.

Funny River
• Closed to all fishing May 1-July 31.

Killey River:
• Closed to all fishing May 1-July 31.

Moose River drainage:
• From its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway bridge:
  • Anglers must use artificial flies in these waters May 1-July 31. See page 7 for a description of allowed gear.
  • Closed year-round to fishing for king salmon.
  • Open to fishing for all other species following the Lower Kenai River Mainstem General Seasons and Limits on Pages 52-55.
  • See page 55 for additional restrictions to these waters.
• Remainder of drainage:
  • Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10.
  • Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.

Slikok Creek:
• Closed to all fishing May 1-July 31.

UPPER KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Upper Kenai River tributaries are those that join the Kenai River between Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake, and DOES NOT include the Russian River, the mainstem Kenai River, or Skilak Lake.

Cooper Creek:
• Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 31.

Cooper Lake:
• Arctic char/Dolly Varden limits: 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 fish 20 inches or longer.

Hidden Lake drainage:
• Closed year-round to burbot fishing.
• Lake trout limits: 1 per day, 1 in possession—must be less than 16 inches in length.
GENERAL REGULATIONS

Inclusive waters: Kenai Lake and all other lakes of the Kenai Lake drainage, and all flowing waters tributary to Kenai Lake.

The Fishing Season for all species is open year-round in lakes and ponds unless otherwise noted below. The fishing season for all species is closed from May 1 - June 10 in all flowing waters unless otherwise noted below.

KING SALMON
• Closed to king salmon fishing.

OTHER SALMON
• Closed to all salmon fishing.

RAINFOREST/STEELHEAD TROUT
• In flowing waters:
  • 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
  • In unstocked lakes: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.
  • In stocked lakes (see pages 84–85 for a list of stocked lakes): 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.
• 20 inches or longer:
  • There is a total annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer taken north of the latitude of Point Adam, from the waters of the following areas: West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Lake drainages, Kenai River tributaries, and Kenai Peninsula.
  • Anglers who keep a rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.

ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN
• In flowing waters:
  • 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
  • In lakes and ponds: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.

ARCTIC GRAYLING
• In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters:
  • 5 per day, 5 in possession.
**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**LAKE TROUT**
- In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters:
  - 20 inches or longer: 2 per day, 2 in possession.
  - Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

**BURBOT**
- In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters:
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession.

**OTHER FINFISH**
- In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters:
  - No limit.

**METHODS AND MEANS**

**Bait restrictions:**
- **In Kenai Lake (except within ¼ mile of all inlet streams):**
  - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
- **Within ¼ mile of all inlet streams of Kenai Lake and on the Kenai River from the Sterling Highway bridge upstream approximately ¼ mile to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Kenai Lake:**
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
- **In all flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainages:**
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free to slide on the entire length of the line or leader.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

Crescent Creek drainage—including Crescent Lake:
- Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10.
- Arctic grayling limits: 2 per day/2 in possession.

Kenai Lake within ¼ mile of all inlet streams:
- Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10.

Kenai Lake outlet:
- Kenai Lake within ¼ mile above the Sterling Highway bridge at the outlet of the lake:
  - Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10.

Quartz Creek:
- Upstream of the Sterling Highway bridge (Mile 40.9):
  - Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 15.
- Downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge:
  - Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10.

Snow River drainage:
- South Fork:
  - Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 31.
- Remainder of drainage:
  - Closed to all fishing May 1-June 10.