

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-05-06

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, May 8, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 18, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, June 30, 2006,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order adds Thursdays as an additional day anglers may retain naturally-produced king salmon from the Kasilof River. Anglers may retain naturally-produced king salmon caught in the Kasilof River on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Naturally-produced king salmon are identified by the presence of an intact adipose fin. Retention of hatchery king salmon continues to be allowed 7 days per week. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 18, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, June 30, 2006.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022 WATERS; SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (EXCLUDING THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE). (b)(7)(A)(ii) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 18, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, June 30, 2006:

5 AAC 56.022 WATERS; SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA AREA (EXCLUDING THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE).

(b)(7)(A)(ii) a naturally-produced king salmon may be retained on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays only; a naturally-produced king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes 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; the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the days for retention of naturally-produced king salmon; for the purposes of this paragraph, "naturally-produced king salmon" means a king salmon with an adipose fin intact.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 650-1,700 naturally-produced king salmon past the Crooked Creek weir has been exceeded in the last three years. Conservative regulations allowing for a limited harvest of naturally-produced king salmon on Tuesdays and Saturdays were implemented for the 2005 season. Escapement data collected at the Crooked Creek weir from 2003-2005 and creel survey information collected in 2004 and 2005 indicate that increasing the number of days per week anglers may harvest naturally-produced king salmon up to three (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) should not threaten the sustainability of the run and will increase the harvest opportunity for surplus naturally-produced king salmon from the Kasilof River.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.