

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-26-06

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Effective Date: 11:00 p.m., Friday, July 21, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the personal use salmon fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River. Beginning at 11:00 p.m., Friday July 21, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006, the waters of Cook Inlet and the Kenai River, extending from the commercial fishing regulatory boundary markers in Cook Inlet north and south of the Kenai River mouth and extending upstream in the Kenai River to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge, is closed to personal use salmon fishing.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540. UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN. (c)(1)(A) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 11:00 p.m., Friday July 21, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006:

5 AAC 77.540. UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(c)(1)(A) The personal use salmon fishery, occurring from the commercial fishing regulatory boundary markers located in the waters of Cook Inlet north and south of the river mouth extending upstream in the Kenai River to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge, is closed beginning 11:00 p.m. Friday, July 21, 2006 through 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2006.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal of 500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon, the Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.360) states the department shall provide for a personal use dip net fishery in the lower Kenai River as specified in 5 AAC 77.540. Sockeye salmon passage estimates as measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located

at river mile 19 is approximately 82,369 through July 18. Present escapement rates of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River, coupled with the run strength assessment of the return of this stock, indicates that insufficient numbers of sockeye salmon will reach the Kenai River to provide for the optimum spawning escapement without greatly reduced fishery exploitation. Both the Cook Inlet commercial and Kenai River sport fisheries have been restricted to conserve Kenai River bound sockeye salmon. Closing the Kenai River personal use salmon fishery is appropriate as a necessary measure towards achieving the optimal escapement goal.

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.