

EDUCATIONAL FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-28-06

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 10, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Kenaitze Indian Tribe educational fishery authorized for the Kenai River. The waters of the Kenai River approximately one-quarter mile upstream of the Warren Ames Bridge, including Birch Island, downstream to the mouth; and those marine waters of Cook Inlet adjacent to the Kenai River mouth that are normally closed to commercial salmon fishing will be closed to educational fishing beginning at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 22, 2006 through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 10, 2006.

REGULATION:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 93.200 – 5 AAC 93.235 and the stipulations set forth in the department permit SF-2006-121, the following provisions are effective:

The educational fishery authorized by permit SF-2006-121 is closed to the taking of all species of fish in those marine waters of Cook Inlet adjacent to the Kenai River mouth normally closed to commercial salmon fishing and in the fresh waters of the Kenai River approximately one-quarter mile upstream of the Warren Ames Bridge, including Birch Island, downstream to the mouth will be closed, effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006. All nets, fish baskets, and weirs must be removed from the water during the period of closure.

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.360) directs the department to manage the Kenai River sockeye salmon resource to achieve an in-river sonar estimate of 650,000 to 850,000 sockeye salmon and an Optimum Escapement Goal of 500,000 – 1,000,000 spawning sockeye salmon. 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. The Cook Inlet commercial fishery that harvests Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon has also been restricted to conserve Kenai River sockeye salmon, and additional restrictions to the Kenai River Personal Use salmon dip net fishery and the Kenai River sockeye salmon sport fishery have also been enacted in order to conserve Kenai River sockeye salmon. It is therefore appropriate that the Kenaitze Indian Tribe Kenai River Educational Fishery be closed as a necessary measure to ensure that the Department will achieve the Optimal Escapement Goal of 500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon.

The educational fisheries authorized in the Kasilof River and the Swanson River are not affected by this closure.

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.