

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-39-12

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, July 12, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday,  
October 31, 2012, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits sport fishing for king salmon in the Ninilchik River beginning, 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, October 31, 2012. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (a)(6)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 16, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, October 31, 2012:

#### **5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(D) is closed to sport fishing for king salmon; king salmon may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist II

### JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and throughout Alaska are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. All indices of abundance suggest king salmon run strength in the lower Kenai Peninsula is comparable with poor run strength trends experienced by other king salmon stocks in the upper Kenai Peninsula and upper Cook Inlet.

The sustainable escapement goal for king salmon in the Ninilchik River is 550-1,300 wild king salmon through the weir from July 3-31. The egg take goal is 111 king salmon pairs. In 2007 and 2009, escapement was below the goal; and near the lower end in 2008, 2010, and 2011. Egg take goals were not reached in 2007-2009. The egg take goal was reached in 2011 by operating the weir additional days.

The Ninilchik River escapement of from July 3-10, 2012 was 38 wild king salmon; only two hatchery-reared king salmon had been counted through the weir and held for brood stock. As of July 10, approximately 19% of the escapement has been counted through the weir on average. The composition of king salmon from the mouth to approximately 2 miles upstream was estimated to be 79% wild and 21% hatchery-reared king salmon based on a July 10, 2012 beach seine survey. Additionally, king salmon restrictions on the Kenai and Kasilof river drainages may result in an increase of sport fishing effort and catch of Ninilchik River king salmon. Therefore, this restriction is necessary to achieve the Ninilchik River king salmon escapement and eggtake goal.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-21-12 which closed the Ninilchik River to sport fishing from the mouth upstream to approximately two miles from July 1-15 remains in effect

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-22-12 which limits sport fishing gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing in the Ninilchik River, Deep Creek, Stariski Creek and Anchor River drainages from July 1-31, 2012 remains in effect.

**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.