

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-20-15

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, June 11, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 13, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.,
Tuesday, June 30, 2015, unless
superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-01-15, issued, February 19, 2015 and allows sport fishing during the fifth opening weekend from June 13-15, and the fifth Wednesday, June 17 for the Anchor River drainage. The area open to sport fishing remains the waters downstream of the Old Sterling Bridge. The preseason actions that restricted gear, and establish a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River and all marine waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River to the latitude of Bluff Point will remain in effect. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 13, 2015, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, June 30, 2015.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(C)(i) and (a)(2)(E) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 13 through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, June 30, 2015:

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek Reservoir:

(C) from its mouth upstream to the downstream side of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge located approximately 550 feet below the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is open

(i) from June 13-15 and June 17, 2015; and

(E) sport fishing is open for king salmon from its mouth upstream to the downstream side of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge, located approximately 550 feet below the junction of the North and South forks, only from June 13-15 and June 17 (Saturday-Monday and Wednesday), for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, the bag and possession limit is one fish; a person may not retain more than two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length each year from the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and all marine waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) combined; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Anchor

River may not sport fish for the rest of that day on the Anchor River; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes a 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;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800–10,000 fish. Through June 10, cumulative king salmon escapement was 4,074 fish. Historically approximately 45% of the run has passed upstream of the weir by this date projecting an escapement of approximately 9,000 king salmon. There are indications that 2015 run timing may be earlier than average. After considering a potential harvest of 250 king salmon resulting from this action, even the most conservative projections using the earliest run timing indicate the spawning escapement will be well within the SEG. Therefore it is warranted to allow sport fishing on Anchor River king salmon during the fifth regulatory weekend opening and fifth Wednesday opening.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-20-15 supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-01-15, issued February 19, 2015 and allows sport fishing during the fifth opening weekend from June 13-15, and the fifth Wednesday, June 17 for the Anchor River drainage.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-02-15, issued February 19, 2015 which restricted sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only through June 30, remains in effect.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-03-15 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River and all marine waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.). This emergency order remains in effect through July 15, 2015.

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.