

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-13-15

Issued at: Kodiak, Tuesday,
April 7, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 1, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday,
July 25, 2015, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Ayakulik River drainage. King salmon may not be possessed or retained; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in the entire Ayakulik River drainage. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 2015.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area. (b)(8) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 25, 2015.

5 AAC 64.022 Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak area.

(b)(8) in the Ayakulik River drainage from June 1 through July 25, king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used in the Ayakulik River drainage.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Donn Tracy,
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Ayakulik River king salmon is 4,000 to 7,000 fish. The BEG was not attained in 2006, 2008-09, and also 2013-2014. Restrictions to the sport fishery have been taken in an effort to achieve the BEG since 2006. As an added measure to reduce the possibility of hooking mortality, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used within the Ayakulik River drainage. Expectations of poor king salmon runs and uncertainty over how quickly the run may rebound from recent poor returns, as well as poor king salmon forecasts statewide, justify starting the 2015 season conservatively. Increased fishing opportunity may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of Ayakulik River king salmon indicates the run is stronger than anticipated.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.