

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-27-17

Issued at: Kodiak, Wednesday,
July 12, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 14, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
August 9, 2017, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon (any size) in the Chignik River drainage and the use of bait and multiple hooks. Anglers are allowed to fish for king salmon, but king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 65.020 (1)(A)(i) and (ii) are superseded and 5 AAC 65.022 (f) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 14, 2017, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, 2017:

5 AAC 65.020 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(1) king salmon:

(A) in fresh waters: may be taken only from January 1 through July 25, except that king salmon may be taken in the Chignik River only from January 1 through August 9, and as follows:

(i) 20 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of two fish; annual limit of five fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; except that in the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black lakes and their tributaries, king salmon may not be possessed or retained; a king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(ii) less than 20 inches in length; bag and possession limit of 10 fish; no annual limit; except that in the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black lakes and their tributaries, king salmon may not be possessed or retained; a king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(f) In the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black lakes and their tributaries; only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mark Witteveen,
Kodiak Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The weir count as of July 10, 2017, was 352 king salmon, which is well below average for this date. Based on historical run timing, the current projected total escapement indicates that the BEG may not be achieved. In order to conserve king salmon escapement the inriver sport fishery is restricted to catch-and-release only, and only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used through August 9.

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.