

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-37-18

Issued at: Homer, Friday, July 13, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 16, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2018,  
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order restricts sport fishing gear in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Stariski Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure.

### **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 (a)(2)(A), (5)(A), (6)(A), and (10)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 16 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2018:

#### **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:
  - (A) in flowing waters, from July 16-July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:
  - (A) in flowing waters, from July 16-July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:
  - (A) in flowing waters, from July 16-July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (a)(10) Stariski drainage:
  - (A) in flowing waters, from July 16-July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist III

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Anchor River sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for king salmon is 3,800-7,600 king salmon. ADF&G is projecting the lowest run on record and will fall below the SEG by approximately 1,800 fish. King salmon are holding in the lower two miles of the Anchor River and Deep Creek. A beach seine surveys conducted within the lower two miles of the Anchor River on July 12, 2018, captured 36 king salmon and a Deep Creek survey on July 10 captured 94 king salmon.

The sustainable escapement goal for the Ninilchik River is 750-1,300 wild king salmon and the egg take goal is 140 king salmon pairs. Those years the entire escapement was monitored (1999-2005, 2016, and 2017) 520-1,245 wild king salmon had been counted through the weir by July 10. In 2018, through July 10, 2018, only 291 wild king salmon have been counted and it is unlikely the escapement will reach the SEG. Currently, the number of hatchery-reared king salmon being held for brood stock is insufficient for achieving the egg take goal.

With the historic low runs, gear restrictions are necessary to protect upstream migrating king salmon needed for escapement needs. To minimize the shifting of effort due to conservation actions for the Anchor River and Ninilchik River, it is warranted to restrict gear on Deep Creek and Stariski Creek as well. Maintaining the conservation zones surrounding the stream mouths for king salmon will increase protection for Lower Cook Inlet king salmon in this mixed stock fishery.

**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.