

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-46-18

Issued at: Soldotna, Thursday July 26, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 30, 2018

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December 31, 2018, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order decreases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or longer from three per day, six in possession, to one per day, two in possession, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area (4)(A)(iii) are superseded and (4)(A)(vi) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 30 through December 31, 2018:

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) except as provided in (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish per day, six in possession, of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon; no more than one per day, two in possession may be sockeye salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

(vi) except as provided in (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish per day, six in possession, of which no more than two per day and in possession may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt Miller
Fish and Game Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700,000 to 1.2 million Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon, ADF&G may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit as appropriate when ADF&G determines that the SEG may not be met.

On July 24, 2018, ADF&G estimated the Kenai River sockeye salmon run will be less than 2.3 million fish. Based on the current passage estimate of sockeye salmon in the Kenai River of 367,895 fish through July 25, the SEG may not be met without a reduction in harvest of this stock. Therefore, it is warranted to decrease the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Kenai River sport fishery. Restrictions to the commercial and personal use fisheries are also being implemented to improve sockeye salmon passage to the Kenai River.

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.