

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-11-18

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, May 31, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 2, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 15, 2018,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the waters of the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages to sport fishing.

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 (a)(2)(C) and (E), (a)(5)(C) and (D), (a)(6)(C) and (D), and (G) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 2 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 15, 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:

- (C) from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South Forks sport fishing is closed;
- (E) from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South Forks sport fishing is closed;

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:

- (C) from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream, sport fishing is closed;
- (D) from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream, sport fishing is closed;

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

- (C) from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream, sport fishing is closed;
- (D) from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream, sport fishing is closed;
- (G) from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream, sport fishing is closed;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800-7,600 fish. As of May 29, 2018, only 90 king salmon have been counted using a combination of sonar and video weirs. Based on 2009-2014 average run timing ADF&G is projecting the SEG will not be achieved. By this same date for years when runs were weak (2009-2014), escapement averaged 301 king salmon. Using run timing information from 2009 when the run was five days late, the current projection still indicates the escapement goal will not be achieved. The final escapement for these years ranged between 2,497 in 2014 to 4,509 in 2012. During the weak run years, inriver and nearby marine fisheries were managed conservatively using a combination of restrictions and closures. Anchor River king salmon escapement failed to achieve the SEG from 2009-2011 and 2014 despite restrictions including closures.

To minimize the shifting of effort due to conservation actions for the Anchor River, it is warranted to close sport fishing on the Ninilchik River and Deep Creek as well.

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.