

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-49-18

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 4, 2018

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December 31, 2018, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-46-18, issued Thursday, July 26, 2018, and closes the Kenai River to fishing for sockeye salmon from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, except those waters of the Upper Kenai River, Russian River, and Russian River confluence areas remain open.

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and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area (4)(A)(iii) and (vi), and (4)(B)(i) are superseded by this emergency order, and (4)(B)(iii) is added. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 4, 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 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; sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed;

(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 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; sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed; except sockeye salmon may be taken in the Russian River and Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the power line crossing near the confluence of the Russian River, upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing, including waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is three fish, of which one per day one in possession may be a coho salmon;

(B) less than 16 inches in length; bag and possession limit of 10 fish, as follows:

(i) pink and chum salmon may be taken January 1 – December 31;

(iii) in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake; sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed; except sockeye salmon may be taken in the Russian River and Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the power line crossing near the confluence of the Russian River, upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing, including waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth;

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 1,200,000 Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon, the department may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit as appropriate when the department determines that the SEG may not be met.

On July 24, 2018, the department estimated the Kenai River sockeye salmon run will be less than 2.3 million fish. Based on the current passage estimate of 434,560 fish through July 30 and run timing of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River, the SEG may not be met. Therefore, it is warranted to take further action and close the sockeye salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River. The personal use dip net fishery was closed two days early and restrictions to the commercial fisheries are being implemented.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-46-18, issued Thursday, July 26, 2018 which decreased 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, is superseded by this emergency order

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.