

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-25-18

Issued at: Soldotna, Thursday, June 21, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 1, 2018

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121(1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2018:

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(A) from January 1 – July 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek., only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt G Miller
Fisheries Biologist IV

JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* is to ensure adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and provide management guidelines to the department. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for late-run Kenai River king salmon is 13,500 to 27,000 king salmon 75 cm. mid eye to tail fork and longer.

In 2018 king salmon runs throughout Cook Inlet have consistently and significantly underperformed preseason expectations resulting in restrictions and closures of inriver and marine sport fisheries. Without restrictions to harvest, the SEG for Kenai River late-run king salmon is not expected to be achieved. Therefore, consistent with the management plan, it is warranted to prohibit bait in the sport fishery in order

to achieve the SEG and provide reasonable harvest opportunity. As further specified in the management plan, if bait is prohibited in the sport fishery, the retention of king salmon is prohibited in the personal use fishery, and commercial fishing periods of the Upper Subdistrict, excluding the East forelands, will be open for no more than 48 hours a week.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-20-18 which prohibited sport fishing for king salmon of all sizes in the Kenai River from the mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek through June 30, 2018, and prohibited sport fishing for king salmon of all sizes in the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake through July 31, 2018, remains in effect.

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.