

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-29-19

Issued at: Soldotna, Tuesday, July 2, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 4, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
July 31, 2019, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 2-KS-1-09-19 issued in Soldotna on February 14, 2019, and restores normal regulations that allow the retention of king salmon less than 36 inches in total length from an ADF&G marker located 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. Sport fishing gear in these waters are limited to one, unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-09-19 is rescinded.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Colton G. Lipka
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 57.160. *Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, From January 1 - July 31, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of the Slikok Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, if the inseason inriver run projection is within the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open the sport fishery as described in 5 AAC 57.120(a)(2)(A)(i).

The optimal escapement goal (OEG) for early-run Kenai River king salmon is 3,900 to 6,600 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork length and longer. Through June 30, 2019, an estimated 4,186 large king salmon have passed the RM 13.7 king salmon sonar which is within the optimal escapement goal range. Expected catch-and-release mortality of king salmon greater than 75 cm or 36 inches in total length will not prevent achievement of the escapement goal. Therefore, as directed by the management plan, it is warranted to remove the restrictions placed on the fishery and reopen sport fishing for king salmon under general regulation in those waters of the Kenai River from ADF&G markers located 300 yards downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek to the outlet of Skilak Lake.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-09-19 which prohibited the retention of king salmon of all sizes in the Kenai River from the mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake is rescinded by this emergency order.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-23-19 which prohibited 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 of the mouth of Slikok Creek 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.