

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-44-19

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, August 5, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,  
August 15, 2019, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to Skilak Lake.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121 (1)(B) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 6 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 15, 2019.

### **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:

(B) from August 1 – August 15, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Colton G. Lipka  
Fisheries Biologist III

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Kenai River late-run large king salmon is 13,500 to 27,000 large king salmon (> 75 cm or 34 inches mid-eye to tail fork length). As of August 3, 2019, the DIDSON sonar cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 9,586 fish. The projected sport harvest and catch-and-release mortality of king salmon in the Kenai River upstream of the sonar through the end of the season as estimated by an inseason creel survey is approximately 507 fish. Projections to achieve the SEG have been dropping in August with lower than anticipated entry of king salmon past the sonar. Based on early run timing assessment of the inriver return, the SEG is not projected to be achieved.

Standard regulations for the Kenai River drainage downstream of Skilak Lake allow the use of bait and multiple hooks beginning August 1. Historically late-run king salmon continue to enter the Kenai River during the first two weeks of August while inriver anglers are targeting coho salmon stocks. In order to reduce the mortality of king salmon inriver it is warranted to remove bait from the river at this time.

Restrictive actions to reduce harvest of Kenai River king salmon are being taken in the commercial fishery 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.