

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-21-20

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, June 11, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday October 31, 2020,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order restricts gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 16 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2020, and removes the annual limit for hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 16 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, October 31 in the Ninilchik River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. (a)(6)(A) and (a)(6)(D)(iii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective starting 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 16:

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)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(A) from June 16 - July 15 and from September 1 - October 31, in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(iii) hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, taken in the Ninilchik River do not count toward the Kenai Peninsula Area and other Cook Inlet region annual limit; a hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag and possession limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

As of June 10, 2020, there have been 367 wild and 393 hatchery king salmon counted on the lower Ninilchik River weir and escaped above the sport fishery. Based on 2019 run timing at this counting location, these counts should represent approximately 35% of this years' run. It is likely the wild run will meet the sustainable escapement goal of 750 wild fish at the upper weir but will not be sufficient to support broodstock collection for the 2021 Ninilchik River stocking. The hatchery escapement above the lower weir is projected to exceed broodstock collection needs for the 2021 stockings at the Kachemak Bay

terminal fishery locations. Restricting gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure will reduce the catch of wild king salmon and subsequent release mortality. Removing the annual limit for hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length harvested on the Ninilchik River after June 15 will provide anglers additional opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery king salmon.

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.