

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-08-21

Issued at: Homer, February 1, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, April 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
July 15, 2021, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length harvested in Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) from five to two fish.

Any king salmon recorded for the above waters on an Alaska sport fishing license or harvest record card will also count towards the Cook Inlet annual limit of five king salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022 (b)(1)(A)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, April 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 15, 2021:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag; possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(b)(1) in waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.):

(A) king salmon:

(i) from April 1 - August 31; bag and possession limit of one fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (c) of this section; a harvest card is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water shall be retained and becomes part of the bag 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:

King salmon harvest in the Upper Cook Inlet summer saltwater fishery north of the latitude of Bluff Point is composed of a mixture of returning early-run and late-run Cook Inlet king salmon and feeder king salmon stocks from outside of Cook Inlet. Given the uncertainty of run strength in 2021 for all Cook Inlet king salmon stocks, including Kenai Peninsula and Northern Cook Inlet, it is justified to begin the season

conservatively. Many of the inriver sport fisheries for the stocks that contribute to the harvest in the Upper Cook Inlet summer saltwater fishery are also starting with preseason emergency order restrictions. Despite the preseason and inseason restrictions in 2020, the sustainable escapement goals for the Lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams, that are close in proximity to the Upper Cook Inlet summer saltwater fishery, were not met in the Anchor River and Deep Creek but were met in the Ninilchik River. This annual limit restriction will avoid transferring effort from inriver sport fisheries to the Upper Cook Inlet summer saltwater fishery.

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.