

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-18-21

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 12, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, October 31, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit of hatchery king salmon 20" or greater in length from one fish to two fish and removes the annual limit requirement of hatchery king salmon 20" or greater in length from June 12 through October 31, 2021, in the Ninilchik River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. (a)(6)(D)(i), (a)(6)(D)(ii), and (a)(6)(D)(iii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 12 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, October 31, 2021:

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:

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

(i) from June 12- June 14; bag and possession limit is two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length;

(ii) from June 16-October 31; bag and possession limit is two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length;

(iii) with no annual limit of hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (b) of this section; 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 7, 2021, a total of 292 wild and 531 hatchery king salmon have been counted on the lower Ninilchik River weir and escaped above the sport fishery. Based on the 2018-2019 average run timing at this counting location, these counts should represent approximately 24% of this years' wild run and 19% of the hatchery run. It is likely the wild run will meet the sustainable escapement goal of 750 wild fish at the upper weir and will be sufficient to support broodstock collection for the 2022 Ninilchik River stocking. The hatchery escapement above the lower weir is projected to exceed broodstock collection needs for the 2022 stockings at the Kachemak Bay terminal fishery locations. Increasing the bag limit

from one to two hatchery king salmon and removing the annual limit requirement of hatchery king salmon 20” or greater in length will provide anglers additional opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery king salmon and reduce the number of hatchery fish in the escapement.

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.