

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-12-21

Issued at: Kodiak, February 8, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 25, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in the Ayakulik River drainage. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be possessed or retained; king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Ayakulik River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022(b)(10) and 5 AAC 64.030(e) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 25, 2021.

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

(b)(10) in the Ayakulik River drainage, from June 1 through July 25, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; All king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(e) Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Ayakulik River.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Tyler Polum
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Ayakulik River king salmon of 4,800 to 8,400 fish has not been met in the last several years. The Ayakulik River king salmon run was designated a stock of concern by the Board of Fisheries in January 2020 and escapements below the lower

bound of the BEG for Ayakulik River king salmon in most years since 2013 justifies closure of the king salmon sport fishery. Additionally, in order to reduce mortality, the use of bait is prohibited, and lures are limited to one single-hook, artificial lure within the Ayakulik River drainage. Fishing opportunity may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of the Ayakulik River king salmon run indicates the BEG will be attained.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.