

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-43-21

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, July 12, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021

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July 31, 2021, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes emergency order 2-KS-1-25-21 issued Thursday June 17, 2021. This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon while sport fishing in the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used when sport fishing in these waters. King salmon may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (8)(B)(i) and (ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 14 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021.

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

- (8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:
 - (B) the following special provisions apply in that portion downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:
 - (i) from July 14 through July 31, retention of king salmon is prohibited; king salmon may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately;
 - (ii) in flowing waters, from July 14 through July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Colton Lipka
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2021, the king salmon runs throughout Cook Inlet have underperformed preseason expectations resulting in restrictions and closures of inriver and marine sport fisheries.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-42-21 was issued to prohibit the retention of king salmon while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used when fishing for king salmon in these waters in July. These

emergency orders will likely result in an increase in the sport fishing effort and catch of king salmon in the Kasilof River. Therefore, to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River, the measures in the emergency order are warranted to ensure adequate escapement of Kasilof River late-run king salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-25-21, issued Thursday, June 17, 2021, which prohibited the use of bait and multiple hooks while sport fishing in the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge.

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.