

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-48-21

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, July 19, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 21, 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July 31, 2021, unless superseded by  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-1-43-21 issued July 12, 2021. This emergency order closes king salmon 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. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. 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. (8)(B)(i) and (ii) are superseded by this emergency order.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 21 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 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.**

(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 21 through July 31, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately:

(ii) in flowing waters, from July 21 through July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used:

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Colton Lipka  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-46-21 was issued closing king salmon sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 21 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021. This closure prohibits all

sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. The emergency order for the Kenai River 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 this emergency order are warranted to ensure adequate escapement of Kasilof River late-run king salmon.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-43-21, issued Monday, July 12, 2021, prohibiting the retention of king salmon while sport fishing in the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge and 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.