

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-13-21

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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 25, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 Karluk River drainage, including the lagoon and its outlet stream. 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 Karluk River drainage below Karluk Lake, including the lagoon and its outlet stream.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022(b)(11) and 5 AAC 64.030(f) 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)(11) in the Karluk River drainage, including the lagoon and its outlet stream, from June 1 through July 25, sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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

(f) Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Karluk River drainage below Karluk Lake.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Tyler Polum
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Karluk River king salmon of 3,000 to 6,000 fish has recently been achieved in consecutive years, but in only four of the last eight years. In January 2011, the Board of Fisheries designated Karluk River king salmon a stock of concern. Poor king salmon production statewide and very low escapements in the Karluk River 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 Karluk River drainage below Karluk Lake. Fishing opportunity may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of the Karluk 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.