

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-25-22

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 11, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 15, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-7-12-22, issued January 26, 2022, and restricts gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. This emergency order also maintains the king salmon bag and possession limit in the Ninilchik River of two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, and 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. (a)(6)(A)(i), (a)(6)(D)(i), and (a)(6)(D)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 11 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 15, 2022:

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:

(A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) from June 11 – June 13, June 16 – July 15, and September 1 – October 31 from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream;

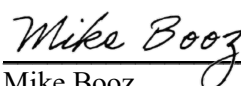
(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(i) on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; bag and possession limit of two hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; a person who takes and retains two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Ninilchik River may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River, Deep Creek, or Anchor River for the rest of that day.

(ii) From June 16 – July 15; bag and possession limit of two hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; a person who takes and retains two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Ninilchik River may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day.

By delegation to:

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner


Mike Booz

Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

As of June 6, 2022, a total of 117 naturally-produced king salmon had been counted at the lower Ninilchik River weir. Based on the 2019–2021 Ninilchik River naturally-produced king salmon run timing, the 2022 escapement is projected to be approximately 500 king salmon. Approximately 1,100 naturally-produced king salmon are needed at this weir to achieve the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 750-1,300 and broodstock collection goal for stocking the Ninilchik River. Only naturally-produced king salmon can be used as broodstock for stocking the Ninilchik River.

Approximately 200-300 hatchery-produced king salmon are needed for broodstock for stocking the Kachemak Bay terminal fisheries. Since 2013, hatchery fish in excess of those needed for broodstock have been culled during egg takes to minimize the hatchery contribution to the escapement and minimize genetic effects of hatchery king salmon on the stock. Harvest of hatchery king salmon in the sport fishery decreases the number of hatchery fish that return to the weir in excess of those needed for broodstock and helps reduce the hatchery contribution to 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.