

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-11-22

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon and restricts gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Anchor River from May 21 through June 22, 2022, and in Deep Creek from May 28 through June 13, 2022.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(E), (a)(5)(A) and (a)(5)(D), are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 21 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, 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)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek reservoir:

(A) from May 21–June 22, July 1–July 15, and September 1–October 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(E) on weekends, Mondays and Wednesdays from May 21–June 22, from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge, sport fishing is open for king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon must be released immediately, a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:

(A) from May 28–June 13, July 1–July 15, and September 1–October 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(D) on weekends and Mondays from May 28–June 13, from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located two miles upstream, sport fishing is open for king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon must be released immediately, a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mike Booz

Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

Anchor River and Deep Creek king salmon stocks have experienced variable run sizes over the last four years. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Anchor River king salmon is 3,800 - 7,600 fish. The lower bound of the Deep Creek SEG is 350 king salmon based on an aerial survey. In 2018 and 2020, the SEG was not achieved for Anchor River or Deep Creek king salmon, despite closing the fisheries early in the season. In 2019, the SEG was met for both stocks with preseason emergency order restrictions. In 2021, the SEG was met on the Anchor River with preseason restrictions and inseason closure, and the SEG on Deep Creek was not assessed due to budget reductions. With the uncertainty of the 2022 run strength for these stocks, it is justified to begin the 2022 season conservatively.

Harvest opportunity may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment indicates the runs are stronger than anticipated and are sufficiently strong enough to achieve goals.

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.