

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-40-23

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Monday, July 10, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery. Any king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Monday, July 10 through 11:00 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(c)(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon may not be retained and any king salmon caught may not be removed from the water, must be released immediately, and returned to the water unharmed;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Jenny Gates
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of 5 AAC 21.359. *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* is to ensure adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and provide management guidelines to the department. The optimal escapement goal for late-run Kenai River king salmon is 15,000 – 30,000 king salmon 75 cm (29.53 inches) mid eye to tail fork and longer.

As directed in 5 AAC 21.359. *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (e)(2), if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery, the retention of king salmon is prohibited in the personal use fishery. Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-11-23 was issued on March 2, 2023, closing the Kenai River to fishing for king salmon and prohibited the use of bait and multiple hooks in the Kenai River.

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.