

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-47-23

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 21, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
December 31, 2023, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for salmon, 16 inches or longer, other than king, pink, and coho salmon, from three per day, six in possession to six per day, 12 in possession in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. No more than two salmon, 16 inches or longer, per day and in possession may be coho salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120(4)(A)(iii) are superseded and (4)(A)(vi) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 21 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023.

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(iii) except as provided in (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, the bag limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is six fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is 12 fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

(vi) except as provided in (iii) and (iv) of this subparagraph, in the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish per day, six in possession of which no more than two may be coho salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner



Jenny Gates
Acting Area Management Biologist

By delegation to:

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* stipulates that the department may increase the bag and possession limit, as appropriate, when the department determines that the abundance of late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon exceeds 2,300,000 fish and the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 1,100,000 – 1,400,000 sockeye salmon will be achieved.

As of July 18, 2023, the department projects the Kenai River sockeye salmon run is greater than 2.3 million fish and anticipates the SEG will be achieved. Determining if the escapement goal will be achieved is done by subtracting the anticipated inriver sockeye salmon harvest above the river mile 19 sonar from the projected end of season total inriver run estimated at the sockeye salmon sonar. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king, pink, and coho salmon, to six per day and 12 in possession.

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.