

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-48-23

Issued at Soldotna: Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Effective Date: 11:00 p.m. Friday, July 21, 2023

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July 31, 2023, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the hours salmon may be taken by dip net in the personal use fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River. Effective 11:00 p.m. Friday July 21, 2023, salmon may be harvested by dipnetting 24 hours per day.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 11:00 p.m. Friday, July 21 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023:

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

(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(A) from 11:00 p.m. July 21 through 11:59 p.m. July 31, seven days per week,
24 hours per day;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Jenny Gates
Acting Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan* stipulates that the department may extend, by emergency order, the Kenai River personal use fishery to 24 hours per day if the department determines that the abundance of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon will be greater than 2.3 million fish.

As of July 18, 2023, the department projects the Kenai River sockeye salmon run will exceed 2.3 million fish and anticipates the sustainable escapement goal (750,000 – 1,300,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the hours salmon may be taken by dip net in the personal use fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-KS-1-40-23 issued Wednesday, July 5, 2023, prohibited 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. This emergency order remains in effect.

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.