

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-KS-4-37-23

**Issued at:** Kodiak, Monday, July 3, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2023

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes EO 2-KS-4-18-23 and closes sport fishing for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black lakes and their tributaries. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used while sport fishing.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 65.020(1)(A) are superseded and 5 AAC 65.022(f) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective Wednesday, July 5 through Wednesday, August 9, 2023:

#### **5 AAC 65.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

(1) king salmon:

(A) in fresh waters: may be taken only from January 1 through July 25; except that in the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point, and including Chignik and Black lakes and their tributaries, sport fishing for king salmon is closed, king salmon may not be possessed or retained; a king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; and as follows:

#### **5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

(f) In the Chignik River drainage, downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black lakes and their tributaries; only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner



By delegation to:

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Tyler Polum,  
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Only 12 king salmon have been counted at the Chignik River weir as of July 2. There are no other similar weir counts for this run and the lack of king salmon at this point in the season justifies closing the sport fishery. Additionally, in order to reduce mortality, the use of bait is prohibited, and lures are limited to one single-hook, artificial lure within Chignik River drainage downstream to Mensis Point and including Chignik and Black Lake and their tributaries. The biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish and has not been met during 4 of the last 6 years. As a result, in February 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries designated the Chignik River king salmon a Stock of Concern. Fishing opportunity may be restored if inseason assessment of the Chignik River king salmon run indicates the BEG will be attained and a harvestable surplus is available.

**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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.