

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-KS-1-33-23

**Issued at:** Soldotna, Wednesday, June 28, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 1, 2023

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of naturally-produced king salmon while sport fishing in the Kasilof River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used when sport fishing in these waters. Naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122(a)(8)(A)(i), (ii), and (B)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023.

### **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)(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

(A) king salmon may be taken from January 1 – June 30, upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, and from January 1 – July 31, downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge; bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length of one fish; annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; from July 1 – July 31,

(i) the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one hatchery fish; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and become part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(ii) naturally-produced king salmon of any size may not be retained; a person may not remove a naturally-produced king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) the following special provisions apply in that portion downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:

(ii) in flowing waters, from July 1–July 31, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Jenny Gates  
Acting Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In 2023, the king salmon runs throughout Cook Inlet are expected to be poor and below average abundance, resulting in restrictions and closures of inriver and marine sport fisheries.

Emergency Order 2-KS-1-11-23 was issued closing sport fishing for king salmon in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake. This emergency order will likely result in an increase in the sport fishing effort and catch of king salmon in the Kasilof River. Therefore, to minimize the effects of conservation actions for the Kenai River on the Kasilof River, the measures in the emergency order are warranted to ensure adequate escapement of Kasilof River late-run king salmon.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order 2-KS-1-08-23 prohibited the retention of naturally-produced king salmon, increased the bag and possession limit of hatchery-produced fish to two fish, and allowed the use of bait in the Kasilof River expires at 11:59 p.m. Friday June 30, 2023.

**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.