

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-44-25

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
August 20, 2025, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon, to six fish per day and twelve fish in possession in the area of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, including the Russian River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.122 (3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 31 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 20, 2023:

5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(3) the following bag and possession limits apply:

(A) in waters of the Kenai River upstream from Skilak Lake to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, including the Russian River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls; salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of six fish, possession limit of 12 fish, of which only one per day and one in possession may be a coho salmon.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Phill Stacey
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Through Tuesday, July 29, 2025, a total of 15,063 late-run sockeye salmon have passed the Russian River weir, located upstream of the falls. The current escapement projection of 74,709 is within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 44,000 – 85,000. Additionally, with the passage of over 2.5 million sockeye salmon into the Kenai River, ADF&G estimates that the Russian River late-run sockeye salmon will

exceed the upper bound of the SEG. Based on this information, it is appropriate to liberalize the fishery to allow anglers the opportunity to harvest additional sockeye salmon which is consistent with the *Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 57.150).

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.