

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-23-25

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 23, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2025,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-7-8-25 and closes the Ninilchik River to all sport fishing.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(6)(C)(ii) and (a)(6)(D)(ii), are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 23 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2025:

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)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(C) sport fishing from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(ii) is closed June 23– July 15;

(D) sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(ii) is closed June 23– July 15;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

As of June 17, a total of 417 wild (naturally-produced) king salmon have been counted through the weir and the run is not projected to achieve the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 900-1,600 naturally-produced fish. The Ninilchik River SEG was not achieved in the last three consecutive years. An additional 100 naturally-produced fish are needed to achieve the broodstock collection goal for stocking the Ninilchik River. Only naturally-produced fish are used for broodstock in the Ninilchik River. Approximately 150 hatchery-produced female king salmon are needed for broodstock for stocking the Kachemak Bay terminal fisheries. Despite having over 600 hatchery-produced king salmon in the escapement, only 40 of those fish are female king salmon. Approximately, 60% of the hatchery fish

counted are less than 20” in length. All remaining large hatchery-produced king salmon will be needed for broodstock collection.

As specified in the *Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery management plan* (5 AAC 56.130), the commissioner may, by emergency order, further liberalize or restrict the Ninilchik River hatchery king salmon sport fishery to provide more harvest opportunity or achieve the SEG and broodstock collection goals. Based on the low escapement of naturally-produced king salmon in 2025, it is warranted to close the Ninilchik River to all fishing to achieve the SEG and broodstock collection goals.

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.