

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-39-25

Issued at: Homer, Monday, July 14, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order restricts gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Ninilchik River, Deep Creek, Stariski Creek, and the Anchor River from July 16 through July 31, 2025.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(2)(A)(i), 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(5)(A)(i), 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(6)(A)(i), and 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(10)(A)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 16 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 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)(2)Anchor River drainage, except Bridge Creek reservoir:

- (A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used
- (i) from July 16- July 31;

(a)(5)Deep Creek drainage, except Bridge Creek reservoir:

- (A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used
- (i) from July 16- July 31;

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

- (A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used
- (i) from July 16- July 31;

(a)(10) Stariski Creek drainage:

- (A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used
- (i) from July 16- July 31;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

As of July 13, the Anchor River king salmon escapement count is 3,045, which is still 155 below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 3,200-6,400. Based on the most recent average 3-year run timing, approximately 10% of the run remains to pass through the lower river in the last two weeks of July. As of July 13, the naturally-produced Ninilchik River king salmon escapement count is 785, which is still 115 below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 900-1,600. Additionally, another 50 naturally-produced king salmon are needed for broodstock. Based on the most recent average 3-year run timing, approximately 15% of the run remains to pass through the lower river in the last two weeks of July.

The lower 2-mile sections of all lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams open to sport fishing for fish other than king salmon on July 16 and both bait and treble hooks are allowed. Due to low water conditions, there are enough king salmon holding in the lower river below the weir to achieve the goals. Given that both the Anchor and Ninilchik Rivers have not met their king salmon SEGs in 2025, a more precautionary approach is warranted for these fisheries. These restrictions will reduce the incidental catch of king salmon, which will result in getting more king salmon into the escapement and providing the best likelihood of achieving the SEG.

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.