

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-F-22-26

Issued at: Haines, Monday, July
13, 2026

Effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday,
Date: July 16, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 Wednesday,
September 30, 2026, unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the waters of upper Chilkat Inlet north of the latitude of Letinkof Cove Light from July 16 through September 30.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(c)(2) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2026:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(c) In the Haines and Skagway vicinity, in the waters of District 15 as described in 5 AAC 33.200, retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(2) in the marine waters of upper Chilkat Inlet north of the latitude of Letnikof Cove Light at (59° 10.42' N. lat.) retention of king salmon is prohibited from July 16 through September 30, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

John Whiting
Haines Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the waters of Chilkat Inlet north of the latitude of Letnikof Cove Light through September 30, 2026, to provide spawning escapement protection for king salmon near the mouth of the Chilkat River. The king salmon sport fishery in Chilkat Inlet is managed under the provisions of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384). This plan prescribes management measures (e.g., sport fishing closures) based on the preseason projected in-river abundance of Chilkat River king salmon. The 2026 preseason forecast estimated an in-river total run of 2,650 large king salmon, which is within the established biological escapement goal range of 1,850 to 3,600 large fish. The 2026 Chilkat king run is slightly late, and it is estimated that ~55% of kings are in-river at this point. In-season surveys suggest that Chilkat River king salmon escapement may just reach the lower-end or fall slightly short of the goal this year. Therefore, in the interest of conservative management, the northern section of Chilkat Inlet, marine waters north of the latitude of Letnikof Cove Light, are being closed to the retention of king salmon through September 30 to provide a sanctuary area near the mouth of the Chilkat River. As the projected in-river escapement is near the lower-end of the escapement goal, some additional protection for returning king salmon stocks is warranted while still providing some harvest opportunity south of the Chilkat River. Unless otherwise announced by emergency order, retention of king salmon in upper Chilkat Inlet north of the latitude of Letnikof Cove Light, will reopen under existing sport fishing regulations on October 1, 2026.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-KS-F-15-26 established non-retention king salmon sport fishing regulations in the marine waters of Chilkat inlet and remain unaffected by this emergency order.

Emergency Order 1-KS-R-21-26 established the regional bag, possession and annual limits for the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery for the remainder of the 2026 season and remain unaffected outside of the conservation measures specified by this emergency order.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.