

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-6-15-26

Issued at: Anchorage, Monday, February 9, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 1,
2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, September 15,
2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for king salmon to one fish in Prince William Sound Management Area salt waters, excluding the Whittier, Cordova, Valdez, and Chenega Terminal Harvest Areas which have a bag limit of two fish and a possession limit of four fish of any size.

REGULATION:

The provision of 5 AAC 55.022(a)(2) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, September 15, 2026:

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits; and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(a)(2) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 – December 31, as follows:

(B) in the salt waters: bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit; except from April 1 – September 15; bag and possession limit of one fish; no size limit; excluding the Whittier, Valdez, Cordova, and Chenega vicinities as specified in 5 AAC 55.023(B), where the bag limit is two fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brittany Blain-Roth

Brittany Blain-Roth
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Gulf of Alaska fresh waters experienced low king salmon returns in many drainages in 2025 and additional restrictions are needed for conservation of king salmon in 2026. King salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet and Gulf of Alaska have returned at levels that have failed to achieve established goals, triggering stock of concern designation for many of them. King salmon stocks are experiencing a period of low productivity and a more comprehensive and precautionary management approach to king salmon sport fisheries in the northern Gulf of Alaska is necessary. Additionally, the 2026 forecasts of king salmon stocks in Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet are below the lower end of established escapement goals warranting restrictions to king salmon sport fisheries throughout the region. These restrictions to Gulf of

Alaska king salmon limits, in some cases in addition to management plans and actions taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, are warranted to reduce harvest of king salmon in these mixed stock fisheries.

DISTRIBUTION:

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