

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-4-26

Issued at: Homer, Monday, February 9, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2026,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing in Anchor River and Deep Creek from May 16 through July 15, 2026. This emergency order also prohibits the use of bait in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Stariski Creek from July 16 through July 31, 2026.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(2)(A)(i), (a)(2)(C) and (E), (a)(5)(A)(i), (a)(5)(C) and (D), and (a)(10)(A)(i) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 16 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2026:

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 the Bridge Creek reservoir:

(A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) from July 16-July 31 from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge;

(C) from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge sport fishing;

(i) is closed May 16 – July 15; and

(ii) is open from July 16 – October 31;

(E) from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South Forks, sport fishing is closed May 16 – July 15;

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:

(A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) from July 16 – July 31 from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream;

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

(i) is closed May 16 – July 15; and

(ii) is open from July 16 – October 31;

(D) from its mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream, sport fishing is closed May 16 – July 15;

(a)(10) Stariski Creek drainage:

(A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) from July 1- July 31 from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2026 Anchor River preseason king salmon forecast is for a run size of 2,743 fish, which is below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) (3,200-6,400). As outlined in the *Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery management plan* (5AAC 56.130), the Anchor River and Deep Creek king salmon sport fisheries will be closed preseason if the Anchor River forecast is below the SEG. Additionally, king salmon run timing has become increasingly later in these streams, with an average of 20% of the run arriving to the lower Anchor River after July 15 in the most recent 5 years. These restrictions will reduce the incidental catch of king salmon in late July, which will help get more king salmon into the escapement and provide better opportunity to achieve the escapement 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.