

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-13-26

Issued at: Kodiak, Monday, February 9, 2026

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in the Karluk River drainage, including the lagoon and its outlet stream, and the Ayakulik River drainage. This closure prohibits sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be possessed or retained; king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Karluk River drainage below Karluk Lake, including the lagoon and its outlet stream, and in the entire Ayakulik River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022(b)(1)(E) are superseded and the provisions of 5 AAC 64.030 (f) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 1 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 2026.

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

(b)(1)(E) the Ayakulik and Karluk River drainages are closed to sport fishing for king salmon from April 1 – December 31; king salmon may not be possessed or retained; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(f) Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Ayakulik River drainage and Karluk River drainage downstream of Karluk Lake.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Tyler Polum
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Karluk River king salmon of 3,000 to 6,000 fish has only been achieved 4 of the last 10 years and the BEG for Ayakulik River king salmon of 4,800 to 8,400 fish has not been met since 2016. Both rivers experienced record low returns in 2024 and 2025 with just 93 and 444 king salmon counted through the respective weirs. In 2011, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) designated Karluk River king salmon a stock of concern and Ayakulik River king salmon were designated a stock of concern by the BOF in January 2020. Poor king salmon production statewide and record low escapements in both drainages in 2024 and 2025 justify closure of both king salmon sport fisheries. Additionally, to reduce mortality, the use of bait is prohibited, and lures are limited to one single-hook, artificial lure within Karluk River drainage downstream of Karluk Lake and throughout the Ayakulik River drainage. Fishing opportunity may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of either king salmon run indicates the BEG will be achieved during the king salmon season.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Alaska Wildlife Trooper Kodiak Office.