

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-1-49-26

Issued at Soldotna: Thursday, August 27, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, September 1,
2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, November 30,
2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, in the Kenai River to two fish. Without action the coho salmon bag and possession limit would increase to three fish beginning September 1.

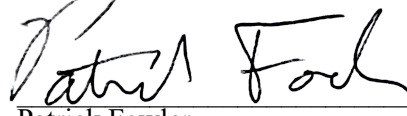
REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120(4)(A)(iv) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, September 1 through Monday, November 30, 2026.

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

- (4) salmon other than king salmon,
 - (A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:
 - (iv) from September 1- November 30, in the flowing waters of the Kenai River, excluding the tributaries, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon is two fish per day;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Patrick Fowler
Cook Inlet Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

Due to continued indications of below-average coho salmon abundance in Cook Inlet, a reduction in the 2026 sport-fishing bag limit for coho salmon in the Kenai River is warranted to ensure adequate escapement and long-term sustainability. Escapement monitoring for Kenai Peninsula coho salmon remains limited, creating uncertainty for 2026 run strength. Recent catch rates indicate a weak return to Cook Inlet and large coho salmon producing streams in Northern Cook Inlet appear to be experiencing weak returns while some smaller systems (Jim Creek, Ship Creek, Fish Creek, and Anchor River) are performing well. Given the uncertainty surrounding coho salmon productivity and recent weak performance trends, this precautionary approach is warranted to reduce the harvest of coho salmon and ensure adequate escapement.

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.