

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-35-26

Issued at: Dillingham, Thursday, June 25, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 28, 2026

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon of any size in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 67.022(g)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 28 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2026:

5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

(1) king salmon may not be possessed or retained; all king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Lee Borden,
Bristol Bay Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Nushagak River king salmon were designated a stock of concern in 2022 and recent runs have continued to fall short of the 55,000 – 120,000 fish escapement goal. Through June 24, 2026, an estimated 6,240 king salmon have passed the sonar at Portage Creek. With current projections falling well below the escapement goal range, it is warranted to prohibit retention of king salmon in the Nushagak River king salmon sport fishery in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

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 and the Bristol Bay Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P.O. Box 230, Dillingham, AK 99576, (907) 842-2427.