

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-14-26

Issued at: Kodiak, Monday, February 9, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1, 2026

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June 30, 2026, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing on the westside of Kodiak Island north of a line extending westward from Cape Ikolik (north of 57° 17.196' N. lat.) to a line extending westward from Outlet Cape (south of 58° N. lat.) from May 1 through June 30. King salmon may not be possessed or retained; king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022(b)(12) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

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

(b)(12) in the waters of Kodiak Island north of a line extending westward from Cape Ikolik (north of 57° 17.196' N. lat.) to a line extending westward from Outlet Cape (south of 58° N. lat.) sport fishing for king salmon is closed from May 1 through June 30; 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.

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 2024 and 2025 runs were the lowest on record, with just 93 fish counted through the Karluk River weir in 2025. The Alaska Board of Fisheries designated Karluk River king salmon as a stock of concern and the freshwaters of the Karluk River drainage have been closed to king salmon fishing continuously since 2008 and has seen significant fishery restrictions since 2001. The exceptionally low run in 2025 is thought to be in large part a result of extremely warm temperatures seen during July and August of 2020, the parent year for the dominate age class of the run in 2025. Given the outlook for Karluk River king salmon, its history of not achieving escapement goals over the last 25 years, and poor king salmon production statewide, closing the salt waters of the west side of Kodiak Island to sport fishing for king salmon is justified during the time that Karluk River king salmon are likely to be migrating through the area. Fishing opportunities may be allowed by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of the king salmon run indicates the BEG will be achieved.

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 Troopers Kodiak Office.