

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-3-26

Issued at: Homer, Monday, February 9, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 23, 2026

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unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order restricts the season open to fishing for king salmon in the Ninilchik River to Memorial Day weekend (May 23 – May 25, 2026) and the following four weekends in May and June (May 30 – June 1, June 6 – 8, June 20 – 22, and June 27 – 29) as well as the youth-only fishery on June 3. This emergency order also restricts the use of bait and reduces the daily bag limit to 1 hatchery king salmon. After harvesting a hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, anglers may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the remainder of the day.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(6)(A)(i), (a)(6)(C)(ii), (a)(6)(D)(i), (a)(6)(D)(ii), and (a)(6)(G) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 23 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)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

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

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

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

(ii) from June 20 – 22 and June 27 – 29;

(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(i) on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; the bag and possession limit is one hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length and 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Ninilchik River may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day;

(ii) on June 20 – 22 and June 27 – 29; the bag and possession limit is one hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length and 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used; a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Ninilchik River drainage may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River drainage for the rest of that day; and

(G) the Ninilchik River from the outlet of the Ninilchik small boat harbor to ADF&G regulatory markers approximately two miles upstream is open to sport fishing to a person under 16 years of age during the designated youth fishery which occurs on the second Wednesday after Memorial Day between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m.; the king salmon bag and possession limit is one hatchery king salmon of any size and naturally-produced king salmon may not be

