

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-8-50-26

Issued at: Anchorage, Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, September 8,
2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, October 5, 2026,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the youth-only sport fishery in the Seward Lagoon and waters draining out of the Seward Lagoon (lagoon outfall streams) by 28 days.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(9)(C)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, September 8 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, October 5, 2026:

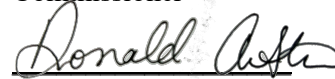
5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(9) Resurrection Bay drainages:

(C) Seward Lagoon and the waters draining out of Seward Lagoon are closed to sport fishing, except that a person under 16 years of age may sport fish during a designated youth sport fishery, as follows:

(ii) the designated youth sport fishery occurs for coho salmon from August 25 – October 5;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner



Donald Arthur
Assistant Area Management Biologist

By delegation to:

JUSTIFICATION:

The Seward Lagoon and waters draining out of the lagoon are stocked annually by the department with coho salmon smolt to provide sport fishing opportunity. Coho salmon returning to this location are primarily caught in salt water, but the Alaska Board of Fisheries established a youth-only fishery to provide sport fishing opportunity for youth anglers in the lagoon and waters draining out of the lagoon. The fish returning to these waters are not intended to naturally reproduce in the lagoon. Through September 1, 2026, 196 coho salmon have passed through the Bear Creek weir, which is the third highest cumulative count to date since 1990, and therefore, it is currently anticipated that coho salmon broodstock needs will be achieved at Bear Creek and coho salmon from the Seward Lagoon will not be needed for additional hatchery broodstock. Fish are still returning in Resurrection Bay at this time. With the youth-

only sport fishery currently scheduled to close on September 7 and fish still entering the lagoon, extending the season is warranted to provide additional angling and harvest opportunity for youth anglers under the age of 16 years old.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.