

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-24-11

Issued at: Soldotna, Friday, July 22, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 25, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,  
July 31, 2011, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait in the Kenai River from the mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, beginning at 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 25, 2011 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011. Legal gear is limited to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure.

Anglers are reminded of Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-20-11, which prohibits the use of bait and prohibits retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length in designated waters of the Kenai River, remains effective through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area (1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 25, 2011 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

**5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(B) from July 25 – July 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only one unbaited single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Robert N. Begich  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

As provided by 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (c)(2), if the spawning escapement is projected to be less than the sustainable escapement goal of 17,800 to 35,700 king salmon, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, restrict as necessary the taking of king salmon in the sport and guided sport fisheries in the Kenai River to achieve the sustainable escapement goal.

Through July 21, all indices used to assess the abundance of late-run king salmon in the Kenai River indicate a run that is well below average for the third consecutive year. All department assessment methods indicate the late run is similar to the runs of 2009 and 2010. The final 2009 escapement estimate was below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) and the 2010 escapement was likely below the SEG. Based on the similarities of the indices in 2011 to these years, it is likely the escapement goal will not be achieved with current sport fishing exploitation levels. Therefore, it is warranted to prohibit the use of bait in the Kenai River as specified in the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-17-11 which prohibited the use of bait and prohibited the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length in designated waters of the Kenai River expired 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 2011.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-20-11 which prohibited the use of bait and prohibited the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length but less than 55 inches in length in designated waters of the Kenai River remains effective through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

**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.