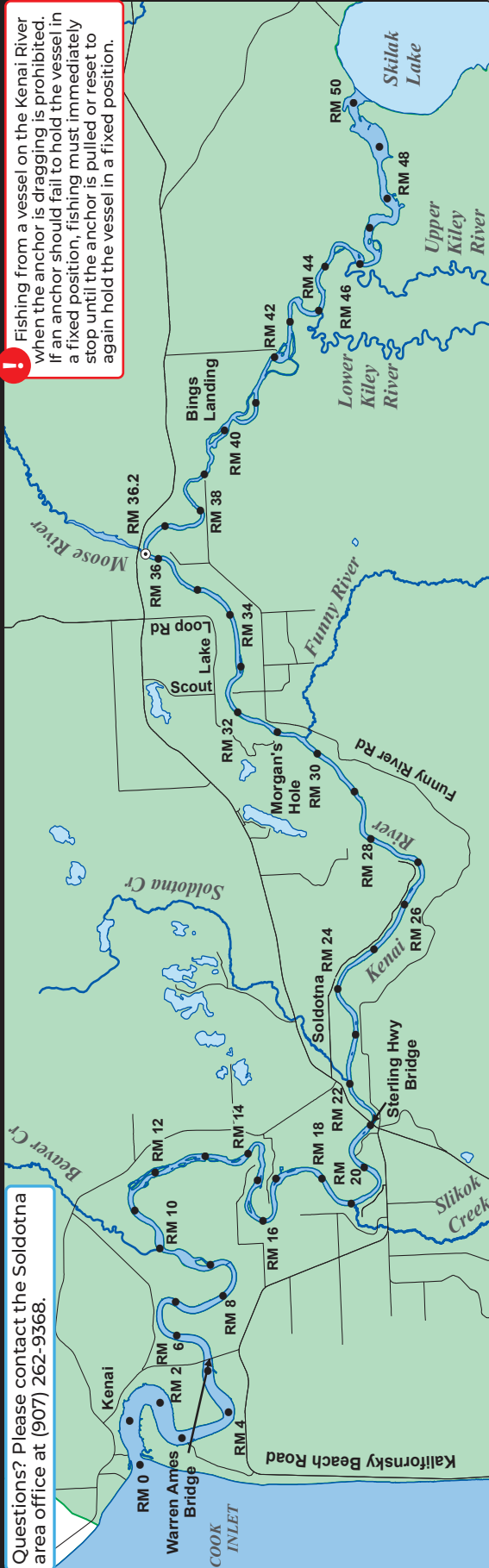


LOWER KENAI RIVER MAINSTEM

Questions? Please contact the Soldotna area office at (907) 262-9368.

**!** Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited. If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to again hold the vessel in a fixed position.



**GENERAL REGULATIONS - LOWER KENAI RIVER**

**Inclusive waters:** The mainstem Kenai River from its mouth, denoted by a line from the green light tower on the north shore and an ADF&G marker on the south shore, upstream to and including Skilak Lake, except within a ½ mile radius of the upper Kenai River inlet. See page 53 for Middle Kenai River regulations.

Fishing is open year-round for all species unless otherwise noted below or in special regulations.

**Stay legal - before you cast, check emergency orders at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR).**

**KING SALMON**

**EO** King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.

...continued



Miriam Sperry, sockeye salmon, Kenai River

**In combination means you can keep a mix of chum, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon within the daily limit. For example, you may have 1 sockeye and 2 coho or 1 sockeye, 1 chum, and 1 coho, but not 3 sockeye and 2 coho salmon.**

### **SOCKEYE SALMON**

- Open year-round to sockeye salmon fishing unless otherwise noted below.
- **August 16-June 19:**
  - **16 inches or longer:** 3 per day, 6 in possession, in combination with chum and coho salmon.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with chum and coho salmon.
- **June 20-August 15:** In accordance with the Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan:
  - **16 inches or longer:** 6 per day, 12 in possession, sockeye salmon only.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with chum and coho salmon.

### **COHO SALMON**

- **December 1-June 30: No retention of coho salmon.**
- **If you retain a bag limit of coho salmon from the Kenai River, you may not fish in the Kenai River downstream from the Soldotna Bridge on that same day.**
- **16 inches or longer:**
  - A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
- **July 1-August 31:**
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, in combination with chum and sockeye salmon.
- **September 1-November 30:**
  - 3 per day, 3 in possession, in combination with chum and sockeye salmon, all 3 may be coho salmon.
- **November 1-June 30:**
  - **Closed to coho salmon fishing upstream of Bings Landing.**
- **Less than 16 inches:**
  - **July 1-November 30:**
    - 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with chum and sockeye salmon.
  - **November 1-June 30:**
    - **Closed to coho salmon fishing upstream of Bings Landing.**

### **CHUM SALMON**

- Open year-round to chum salmon fishing.
- **16 inches or longer:** 3 per day, 6 in possession, in combination with coho and sockeye salmon.
- **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with coho and sockeye salmon.

### **PINK SALMON**

- Open year-round to pink salmon fishing.
- **16 inches or longer:** 6 per day, 6 in possession.
- **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.

### **RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT (COMBO)**

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

### **ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN (COMBO)**

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

### **ARCTIC GRAYLING**

- 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

### **LAKE TROUT**

- **20 inches or longer:** 2 per day, 2 in possession.
- **Less than 20 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.

### **BURBOT**

- 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

### **OTHER FINFISH**

- No limit.

### **NORTHERN PIKE - INVASIVE SPECIES**

- No limit
- The Kenai Peninsula is no longer known to contain any northern pike populations. Northern pike are not native to the Southcentral area.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. If you catch a northern pike anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula, please keep it and bring it to the nearest ADF&G office.

## **METHODS AND MEANS - LOWER KENAI RIVER**

### **LANDING A SALMON:**

- Salmon may be landed only with the aid of a landing net or by hand. No gaffs are allowed.

### **FISHING FROM AN ANCHORED VESSEL:**

- **Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited.** If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to hold the vessel in a fixed position.

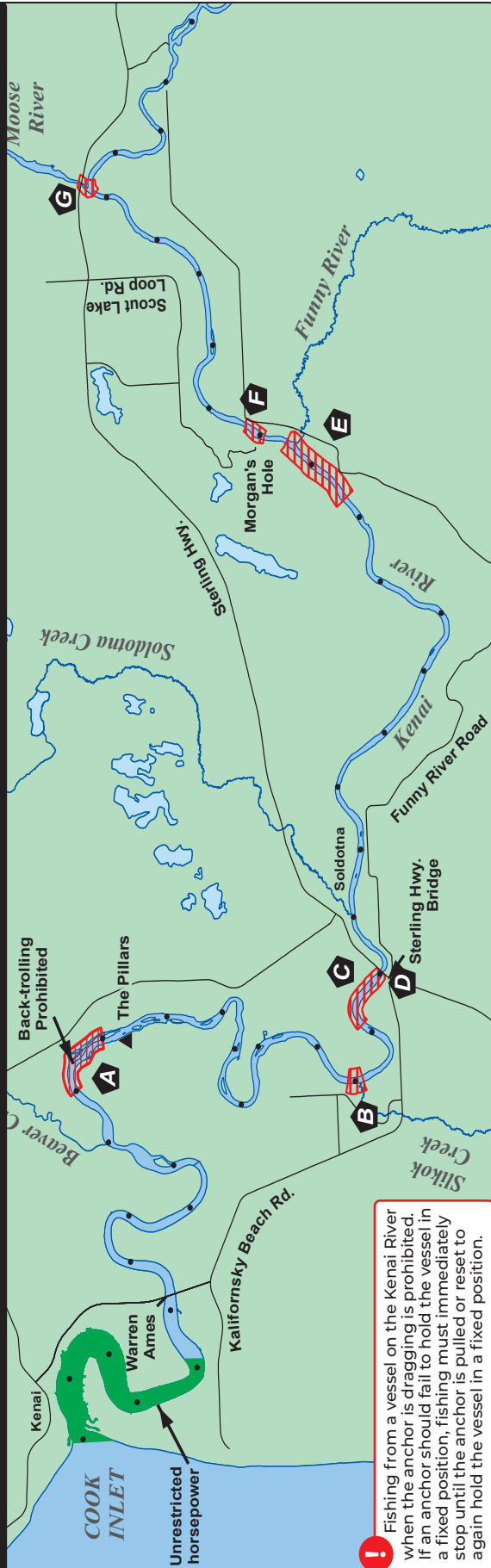
### **DRIFT-ONLY MONDAYS - downstream of Skilak Lake:**

- **Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake:**
  - **Mondays, May 1-July 31 (except Memorial Day):**
    - **Between the outlet of Skilak Lake and the Sterling Highway Bridge in Soldotna:**
      - **Closed to sport fishing from any motorized vessel** (a motorized vessel is one that has a motor on board). Motors may be used to transport anglers to shore fishing locations, but anglers may not fish from any vessel that has a motor on board.
    - **Between the Sterling Highway Bridge and the mouth of the Kenai River:**
      - **Closed to sport fishing from any motorized vessel that has on board more than one single motor greater than 10 hp.**  
A motor 10 hp or less may be used only downstream of an ADF&G marker at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has stopped for the day.

### **GEAR RESTRICTIONS:**

- **In flowing waters:** Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook or be free sliding on the line or leader.

LOWER KENAI RIVER MAINSTEM - FROM THE MOUTH TO FUNNY RIVER



**!** Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited. If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to again hold the vessel in a fixed position.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS - LOWER KENAI RIVER**

- A** That portion of the Kenai River between ADF&G regulatory markers located at river mile 11 and river mile 12:
  - July 1-July 31:
  - **Back-trotting prohibited.** You may not sport fish for any species of fish from a vessel that is making upstream progress relative to the water with the aid of a motor.

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- B** The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 300 yards downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek:
  - May 1-July 31:
  - Closed to king salmon fishing.
  - Closed to sport fishing from boats.
  - Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 94 for definition of "artificial fly").

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- C** That portion of the Kenai River between ADF&G regulatory markers 250 yards downstream from the upper breakwater at the Centennial Campground boat launch upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge in Soldotna:
  - May 1-July 31:
  - Closed to sport fishing from boats.

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- D** **SOLDOTNA CENTENNIAL CAMPGROUND BOAT LAUNCH LAGOON:**
  - July 1-August 30:
  - Closed to all sport fishing.

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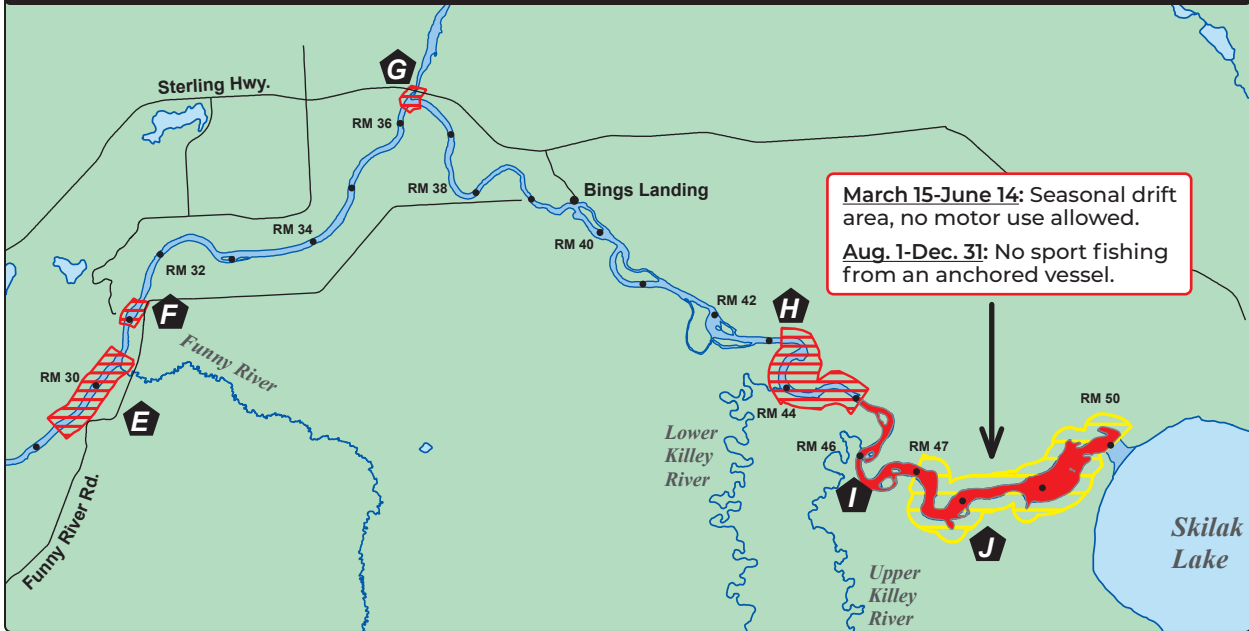
- E** **FUNNY RIVER CONFLUENCE AREA:**
  - The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile downstream of the mouth of Funny River upstream to ADF&G markers about 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River:
  - May 1-July 31:
  - Closed to king salmon fishing.
  - Closed to sport fishing from boats.
  - Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 94 for definition of "artificial fly").

...continued



Lillianna Snow, sockeye salmon, Kenai River

## LOWER KENAI RIVER MAINSTEM FROM FUNNY RIVER TO SKILAK LAKE



### **F** MORGAN'S HOLE:

- The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about 100 yards downstream from the landing at Morgan's Hole (river mile 31) upstream to an ADF&G marker:
  - **May 1-July 31:**
    - Closed to sport fishing from boats.

### **G** MOOSE RIVER CONFLUENCE AREA:

- The Kenai River from ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yards downstream of the mouth of the Moose River, upstream to ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yards upstream of the mouth of the Moose River:
  - **May 1-July 31:**
    - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure is allowed.
    - Closed to sport fishing from boats.

### **H** LOWER KILLEY RIVER CONFLUENCE AREA:

- The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about ¾ mile downstream of the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River:
  - **May 1-July 31:**
    - Closed to king salmon fishing.
    - Closed to sport fishing from boats.
    - Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 94 for definition of "artificial fly").

- **THE KENAI RIVER** from an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to Skilak Lake:
  - **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

### **J** SKILAK LAKE OUTLET:

- The Kenai River from the swan sanctuary sign at the outlet of Skilak Lake downstream approximately 3 miles to the corresponding swan sanctuary sign near river mile 47:
  - **August 1-December 31:**
    - Closed to sport fishing from an anchored vessel. "Anchored vessel" means using an anchor or any device other than oars, paddles, or outboard motor to slow or stop a boat's downstream drift.

### SKILAK LAKE:

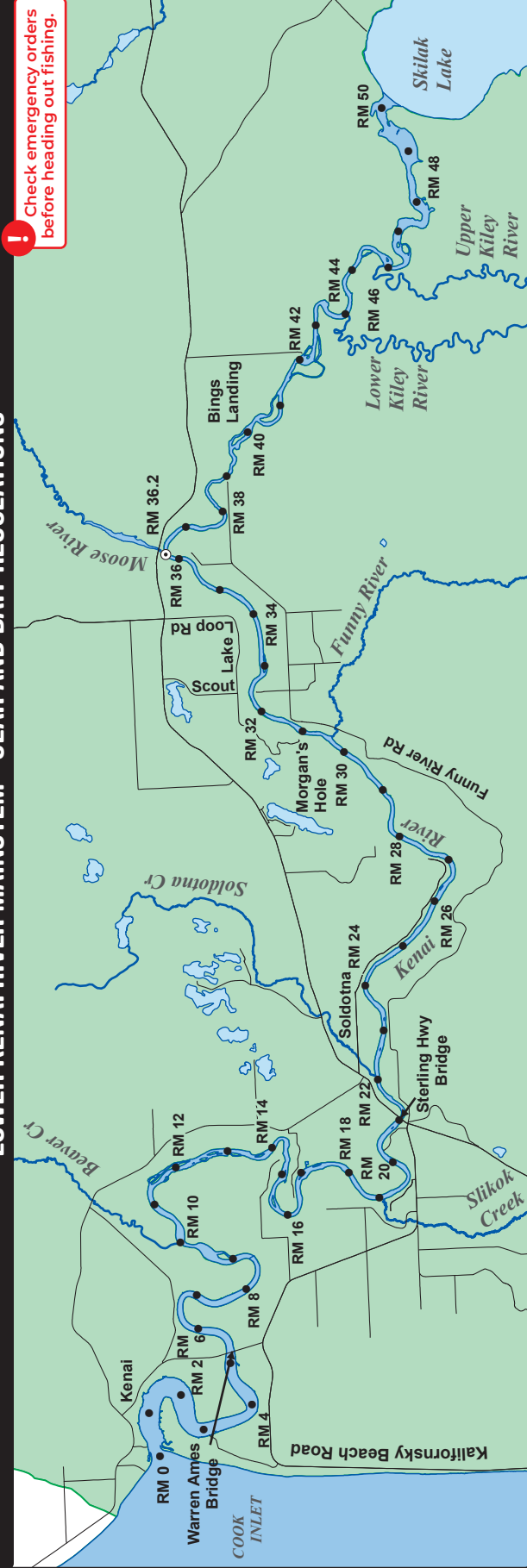
- Closed to king salmon fishing.
- Except that part of the lake within ½ mile of the upper Kenai River inlet:
  - Bait and multiple hooks allowed year-round.
  - See general regulations on pages 44-45 for seasons and limits.

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Travis Roadifer, rainbow trout, Kenai River

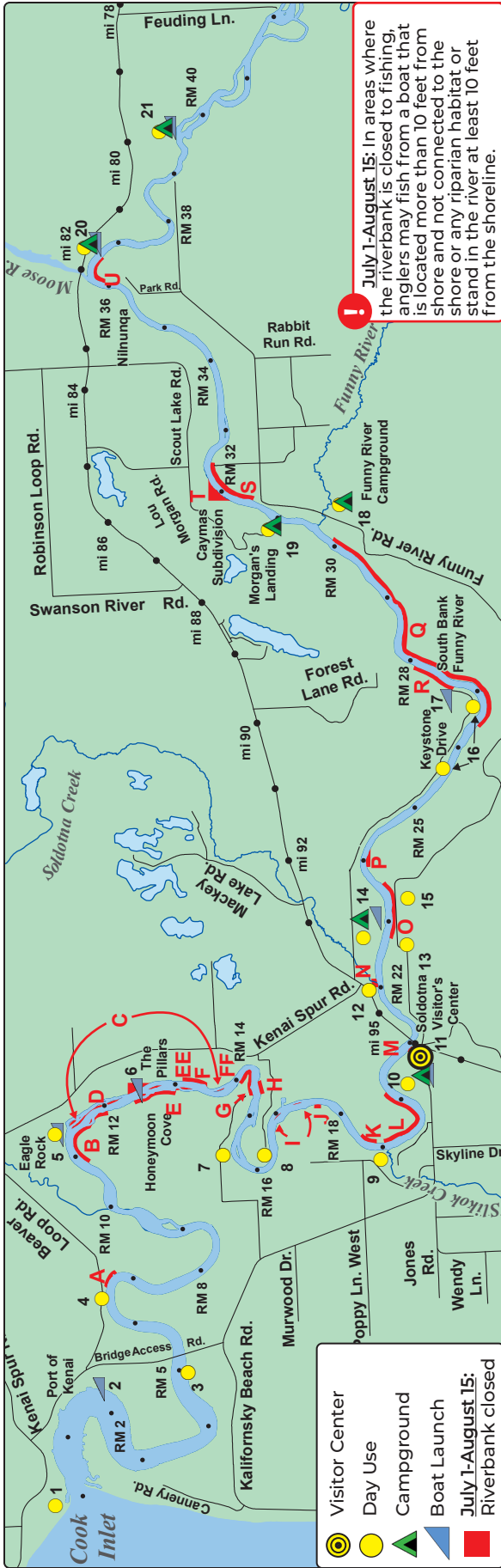
**LOWER KENAI RIVER MAINSTEM - GEAR AND BAIT REGULATIONS**



Hannah Kim, sockeye salmon, Kenai River

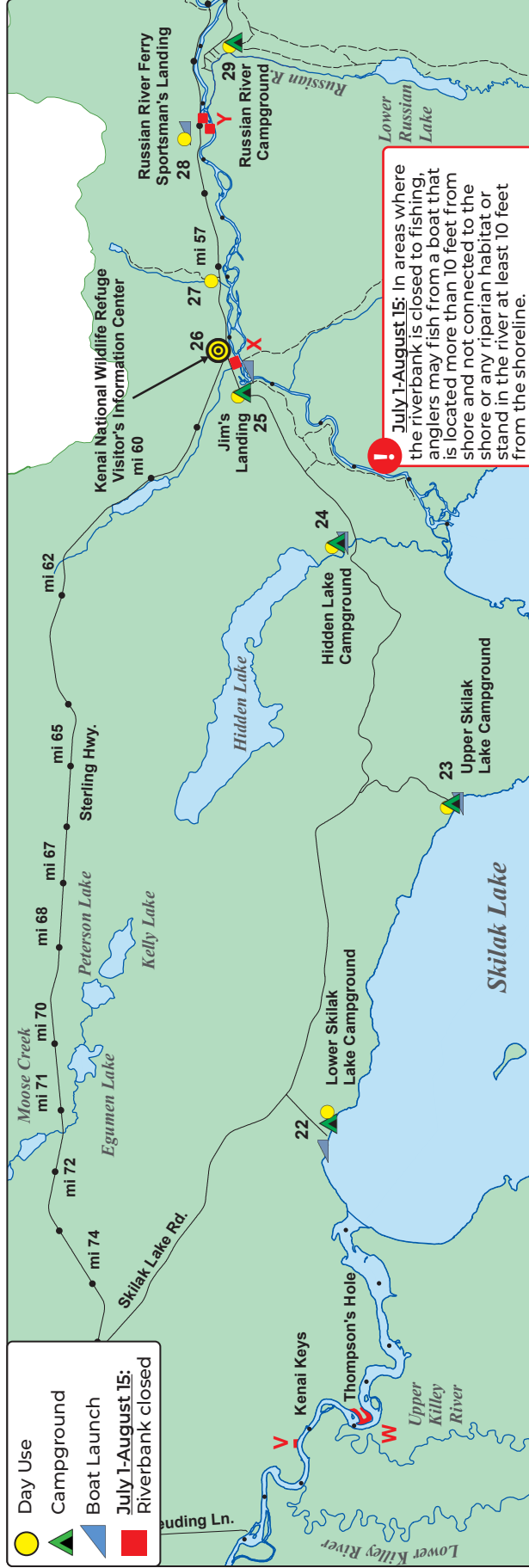
January 1-August 15: (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake):	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
August 16-November 30: (From ADF&G markers at the Moose River confluence upstream to ADF&G markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake):	Bait and multiples hooks are allowed.
January 1-December 31: (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G markers at the Moose River confluence):	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
December 1-December 31: (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G markers at the Moose River confluence):	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.

\*Selected areas near tributary streams have special tackle and king salmon regulations that override the gear restrictions in these tables. See special regulations.



	Public Access Points	Riverbank Closures	Public Shore Access	ADA Access
1	Mouth of the Kenai River			
2	Port of Kenai		City of Kenai - Boat Launch	
3	Kenai Flats State Recreation Site		Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area	
4	Cunningham Park	★	City of Kenai - Day-Use Picnic Area	
5	Eagle Rock	★	Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch	
6	The Pillars		Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch	
A	NEAR CUNNINGHAM PARK		North bank between river miles 6.6 and 6.8	
B	EAGLE ROCK		South bank between river miles 10.7 and 12.0	
C	STATE-OWNED ISLANDS		Between river miles 11 and 15 (see lines D-H below)	
D	THE PILLARS AREA		North bank between river miles 12.4 and 12.6	
E	HONEYMOON COVE AREA		South bank between river miles 12.5 and 13.0	
EE	HONEYMOON COVE		North bank between river miles 13.0 and 13.2	
F	NEAR FALLING-IN-HOLE		East bank between river miles 13.2 and 13.5	
FF	NEAR STEWART'S LANDING		North bank between river miles 13.6 and 14.0	
G	WEST BANK		Between river miles 14.0 and 14.4	
H	NEAR BIG EDDY ROAD		South bank between river miles 14.4 and 14.6	
7	Ciechanski	★	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area	
8	Big Eddy	★	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area	
I	STATE-OWNED ISLANDS		Between river miles 17.0 and 17.3	
J	NEAR POACHERS COVE		West bank between river miles 17.5 and 17.6	
K	NORTH BANK		Between river miles 18.6 and 18.8	
9	Silikok Creek	★	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area	
L	NORTH BANK		Between river miles 18.9 and 20.2	
10	Centennial Park Campground	★	City of Soldotna - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, and Boat Launch	
M	NEAR SOLDOTNA VISITOR'S CENTER		South bank between river miles 20.9 and 21.0	
11	Soldotna Visitor's Center	★	Boardwalk	
12	Soldotna Creek Park	★	City of Soldotna - Day-Use Picnic Area, Boardwalk Access	
13	Donald E. Gilman River Center	★	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use	
14	Swiftwater Campground	★	City of Soldotna - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch, and Boardwalk Access	
N	SOLDOTNA CREEK		North bank from the mouth of Soldotna Creek upstream between river miles 22.0 to 22.1	
15	Rotary Park	★	City of Soldotna - Day-Use	
O	NEAR SOLDOTNA AIRPORT		South bank between river miles 22.7 and 23.5	
16	Moose Range Meadows	★	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Day-Use	
P	SOUTH BANK		Between river miles 23.8 and 24.2	
17	Keystone Drive Boat Launch (end of road)		Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Boat Launch	
Q	SOUTH BANK/FUNNY RIVER		Between river miles 26.4 and 30.0	

LOWER & MIDDLE KENAI RIVERBANK CLOSURE & ACCESS

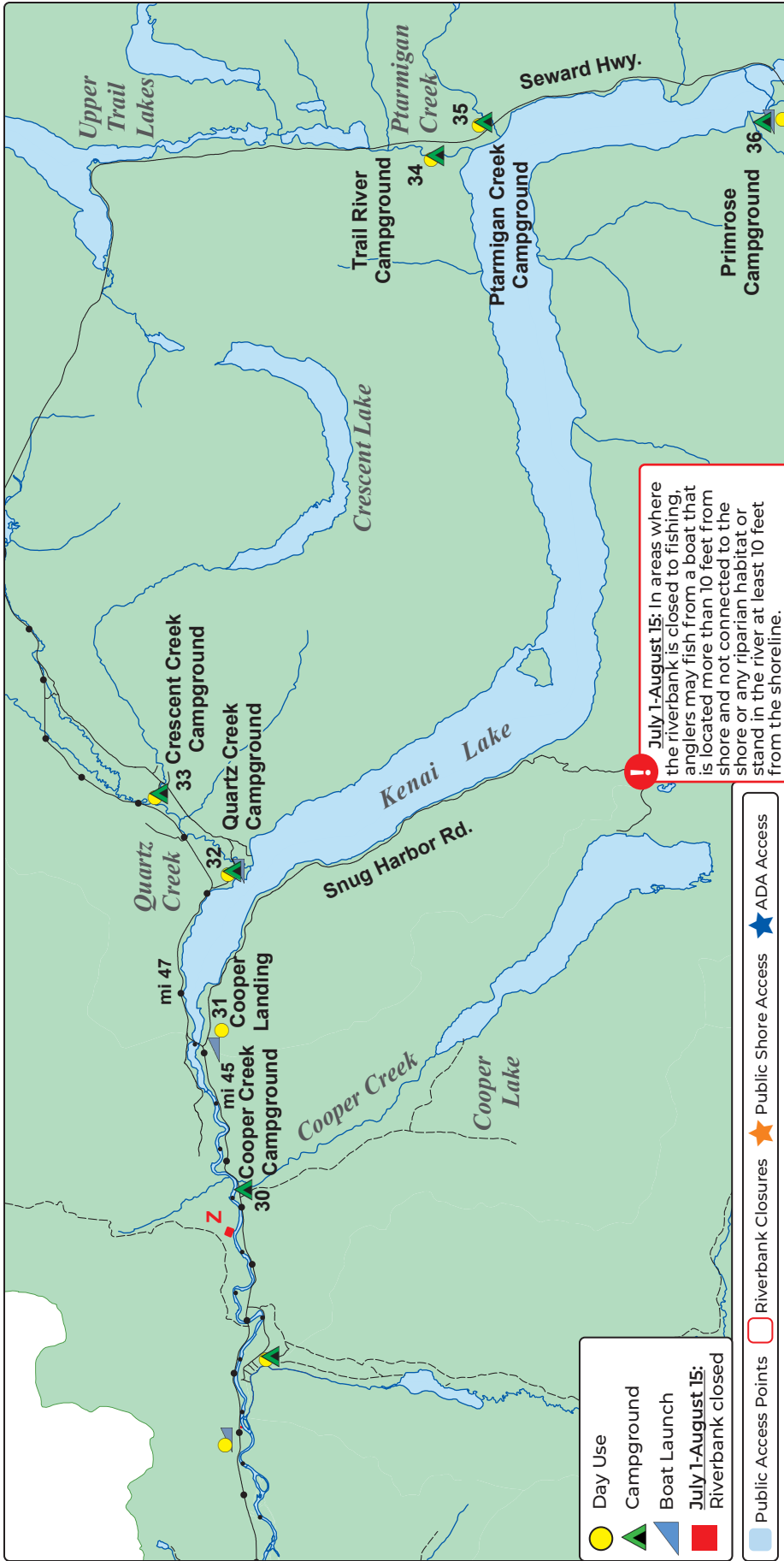


● Day Use  
▲ Campground  
▲ Boat Launch  
■ July 1-August 15: Riverbank closed

**July 1-August 15:** In areas where the riverbank is closed to fishing, anglers may fish from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat or stand in the river at least 10 feet from the shoreline.

23	Upper Skilak Lake Campground	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Picnic Area, and Boat Launch
24	Hidden Lake Campground	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Picnic Area, and Boat Launch
25	Jim's Landing	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Day-Use Picnic Area, and Boat Launch
X	Near JIM'S LANDING	North bank from river mile 69.7 to an ADF&G marker just downstream of the boat launch
26	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Information Center.	
27	Sterling Highway Milepost 57 Pullout	
28	Russian River Ferry / Sportsman's Landing	U.S. Forest Service - Foot Traffic and Ferry, Boat Launch, and Day-Use Picnic Area
Y	RUSSIAN RIVER FERRY/SPORTSMAN'S LANDING	North bank, upstream of the ferry crossing, between river miles 73.5 and 73.6
29	Russian River Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground and Day-Use Picnic Area

	Public Access Points	Riverbank Closures	Public Shore Access	ADA Access
18	Funny River Campground	★	★	
19	Morgan's Landing	★		
R	NEAR KEYSTONE DRIVE			North bank from river mile 27.3 (upstream edge of boat ramp at the end of Keystone Drive) to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary at river mile 28 (near the powerline)
S	HANSEN RIVER RANCH			South bank between river miles 31.5 and 32.5
T	CAYMAS SUBDIVISION			North bank between river miles 31.8 and 32.3
U	NILNUNQUA			South bank between river miles 36.0 and 36.6
20	Izaak Walton State Recreation Site	★	★	Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, and Boat Launch
21	Bing's Landing	★		Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, and Boat Launch
V	NEAR KENAI KEYS			North bank between ADF&G markers at river mile 44.6
W	THOMPSON'S HOLE			North bank between river miles 45.8 and 46.3
22	Lower Skilak Lake Campground			Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, and Boat Launch



- Day Use
- ▲ Campground
- ▲ Boat Launch
- July 1-August 15: Riverbank closed

- Public Access Points
- ◻ Riverbank Closures
- ★ Public Shore Access
- ★ ADA Access

**!** July 1-August 15: In areas where the riverbank is closed to fishing, anglers may fish from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat or stand in the river at least 10 feet from the shoreline.

30	Cooper Creek Camp (North & South)	U.S. Forest Service - Campground
31	Cooper Landing	Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch
Z	<b>COOPER LANDING BOAT LAUNCH</b>	South bank near river mile 82.0, from the bridge downstream about 1,000 feet to an ADF&G marker
32	Quartz Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, and Boat Launch
33	Crescent Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area

34	Trail River Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area
35	Ptarmigan Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area
36	Primrose Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Boat Launch

# UPPER KENAI RIVERBANK CLOSURE & ACCESS

# KENAI RIVER BOAT AND MOTOR REGULATIONS: ALASKA STATE PARKS

The Alaska State Legislature created the Kenai River Special Management Area in 1984 and charged Alaska State Parks with its management. Here are their boating regulations for the Kenai River, summarized for your convenience.

For more information on boat motor regulations on the Kenai River, please call the Alaska State Parks office at (907) 262-5581.

## HORSEPOWER RESTRICTIONS

No one may operate a boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.2 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) with outboard or combination of outboards having a total propshaft rating greater than 50 HP. Propshaft horsepower rating means the boat motor's original manufacturer rated and labeled horsepower. Adding a jet drive unit to a motor does not change the propshaft horsepower rating of the motor powerhead and driveshaft configuration. These horsepower limitations do not apply to the operation of a boat on Kenai Lake, on Skilak Lake, and on the Kenai River between the Kenai Lake Bridge and river mile 80.7. See maps on pages 44 and 53.

## FOUR STROKE OR DIRECT FUEL INJECTION REQUIREMENTS

Regardless of the time of year or motor horsepower, no one may operate a motorized boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.2 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) unless the motor is a four-stroke motor or a direct fuel injection motor. This includes boats operating on Kenai and Skilak lakes.

## BOAT LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

Except on Kenai and Skilak lakes, no one may operate a motorized boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located (at approximately river mile 4.2) downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge that exceeds overall boat size to no more than 21 feet long and 106 inches wide.

## DRIFT AREAS, MOTOR USE PROHIBITED

- Operating a boat by use of a motor is prohibited year-round on the Kenai River, from Skilak Lake inlet upstream to river mile 80.7. See map on page 53.
- March 15 to June 14: Operating a boat by use of a motor on the Kenai River is also prohibited from river mile 47 upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake. See map on page 47.

## PASSENGER LIMITS

No more than 6 people are allowed on board, including operator. Except for guided vessels in July, below the outlet of Skilak Lake, which may have no more than 5 people on board.

## TYING UP

No one may tie up a boat to state land, easement, or rights-of-way for more than 24 consecutive hours.

## ANCHORING

No one may anchor a boat on the Kenai River that obstructs a primary traffic channel or drift fishing channel.

## ALASKA'S BOATING SAFETY LAW



**REGISTRATION:** In January 2011, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) assumed boat registration from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

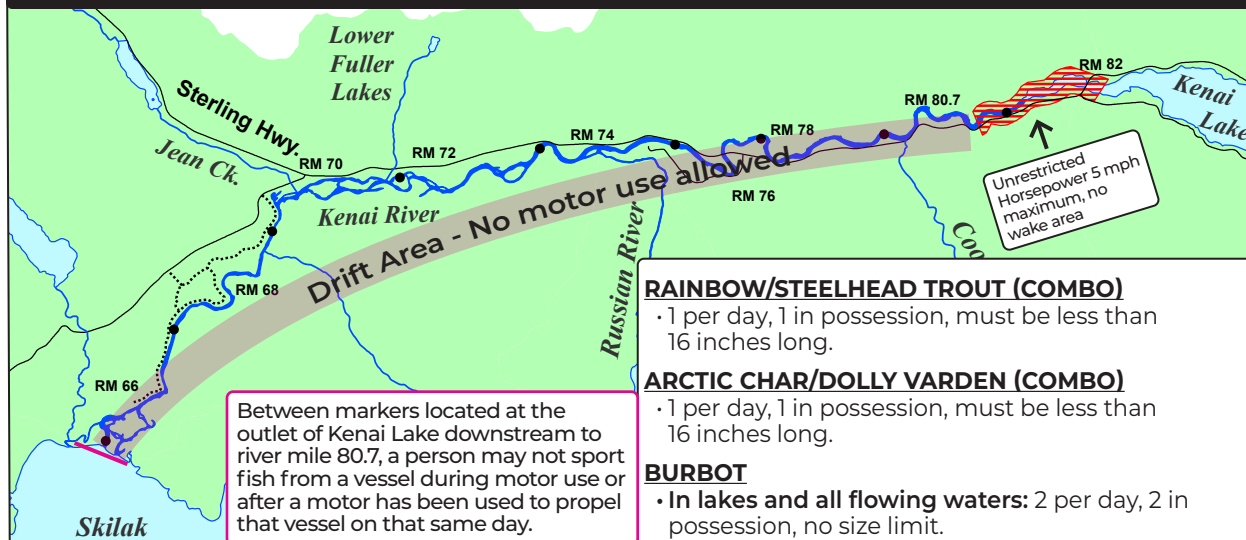
All motorized boats must be registered, either with the DMV or as a vessel meeting documentation requirements of the USCG.

Registration card must be carried on board the boat.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:** State safety and equipment requirements are identical to USCG federal requirements, with the addition of the following: "All persons under 13 years of age must wear a USCG approved life jacket while on the deck of a boat or in an open boat."

Obtain a complete list of safety and equipment requirements and other vital boating safety information from the State Office of Boating Safety at (907) 269-8705, or visit their website at [www.alaskaboatingsafety.org](http://www.alaskaboatingsafety.org).

## MIDDLE KENAI RIVER



### GENERAL REGULATIONS - MIDDLE KENAI RIVER

**Inclusive waters:** The mainstem Kenai River, from waters of Skilak Lake within a ½ mile radius of the river inlet upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, including the Russian River drainage.

**June 11-April 30:** Fishing is open for all species unless otherwise noted below or in special regulations.

**May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

**Stay legal - before you cast, check emergency orders at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR).**

#### KING SALMON

- Closed to king salmon fishing.

#### CHUM, COHO, PINK, & SOCKEYE SALMON (COMBO)

- **Coho salmon:** See below for bag and possession limits.
  - **July 1-Oct. 31:** Open to coho salmon fishing.
  - A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  - **July 1-Aug. 31:** 2 per day, 2 in possession in combination with chum and sockeye limits below.
  - **Sept. 1-Oct. 31:** 3 per day, 2 in possession in combination with chum and sockeye limits below.
- **Chum, pink, & sockeye salmon:**
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to chum, pink, and sockeye salmon fishing.
  - **16 inches or longer:**
    - **Pink salmon:** 6 per day, 6 in possession.
    - **Chum and sockeye salmon (combo):**
      - **June 11-Aug. 31:** 3 per day, 6 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be coho salmon.
      - **Sept. 1-Oct. 31:** 3 per day, 6 in possession, all 3 may be coho salmon.
  - **Less than 16 inches (combo):** 10 per day, 10 in possession.

#### RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT (COMBO)

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

#### ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN (COMBO)

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

#### BURBOT

- **In lakes and all flowing waters:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

#### LAKE TROUT

- 20 inches or longer: 2 per day, 2 in possession.
- Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

#### NORTHERN PIKE - INVASIVE SPECIES

- No limit
- **Live Release Prohibited.** If you catch a northern pike anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula, please keep it and bring it to the nearest ADF&G office.

#### ARCTIC GRAYLING

- 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

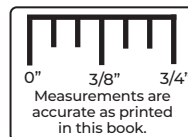
#### OTHER FINFISH

- No limit.

### METHODS & MEANS - MIDDLE KENAI RIVER

#### TACKLE RESTRICTIONS:

- Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be ⅜ inch or less.
- **In flowing waters:** Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook or be free sliding on the line or leader.



#### RIVERBANK CLOSURES:

- **July 1-August 15:** Special bank access regulations on the Kenai River apply. See pages 49-51 for public access points and riverbank closures on the Kenai River.

#### GEAR RESTRICTIONS:

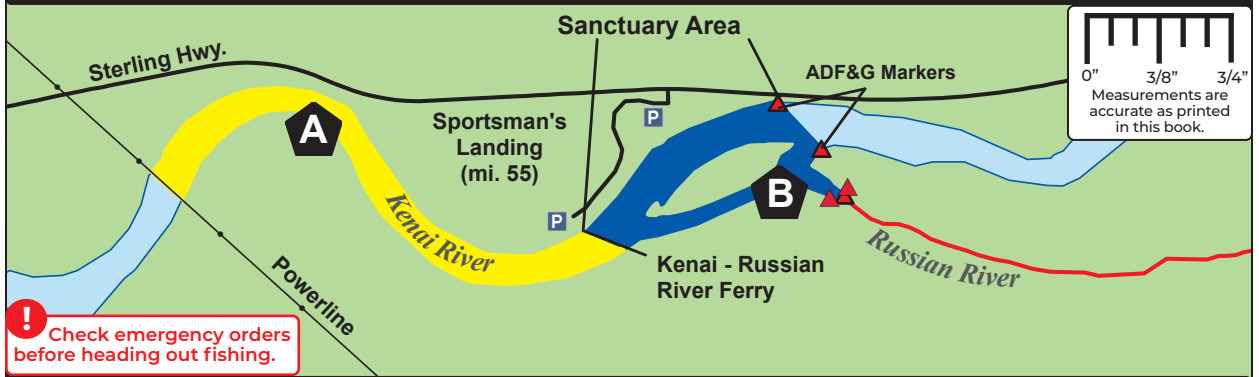
- Salmon may only be landed with the aid of a landing net or by hand. No gaffs are allowed.
- See page 52 for boat and motor restrictions.

#### FISHING FROM AN ANCHORED VESSEL:

- **Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited.** If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to hold the vessel in a fixed position.

...continued

## MIDDLE KENAI RIVER AND RUSSIAN RIVER CONFLUENCE



**!** Check emergency orders before heading out fishing.

### Gear in Fly-Fishing-Only Waters

- One unweighted, single-hook, unbaited fly with gap between point and shank of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or less is allowed. The fly must weigh less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. Artificial flies are defined on page 94.
- If weights are used, they must be at least 18 inches ahead of the fly.

### AREA A

The Kenai River upstream of the Powerline to ADF&G markers placed just downstream of the ferry crossing:

- **June 11-August 20:** Only artificial flies are allowed in these waters. See description in map above.
- **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

#### SOCKEYE SALMON

- **June 11-August 20:** Open to sockeye salmon fishing.
  - **16 inches or longer:** 3 per day, 6 in possession.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- **August 21-June 10:** Closed to sockeye salmon fishing.

#### COHO SALMON

- **July 1-October 31:** Open to coho salmon fishing.
  - **16 inches or longer:** 1 per day, 1 in possession.
  - **July 1-August 20:** When sockeye and coho salmon can be retained, the coho limit is **not** in addition to the sockeye salmon limit. For example, an angler may keep 2 sockeye salmon and 1 coho salmon per day.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination.

### AREA B

A section of the Kenai River upstream from ADF&G markers located downstream of the Kenai-Russian Ferry crossing, to ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing. This section includes the waters around the upstream end of the island in front of the Russian River mouth. The section also includes the Russian River, from its mouth upstream about 100 yards to ADF&G markers:

- **May 1-July 14:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- **July 15-August 20:** Only artificial flies are allowed in these waters. See description in map above.

#### SOCKEYE OR COHO SALMON

- **July 15-August 20:** Open to sockeye and coho salmon fishing.
  - **16 inches or longer:** 3 per day, 6 in possession, only 1 per day, 1 in possession may be a coho salmon.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- **August 21-July 14:** Closed to sockeye salmon fishing.

#### COHO SALMON

- **August 21-October 31:** Open to coho salmon fishing.
  - **16 inches or longer:** 1 per day, 1 in possession.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- **November 1-July 14:** Closed to coho salmon fishing.

### KENAI MAINSTEM OUTSIDE OF AREAS A AND B

The mainstem Kenai River, from the Powerline (downstream boundary of Area A) downstream to the waters of Skilak Lake within a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius of the river inlet:

- See general regulations on page 53 for this area.

Kenai River upstream from ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake:

- See general regulations on page 53 for this area.

Between markers located at the outlet of Kenai Lake downstream to river mile 80.7:

- **A person may not sport fish from a vessel during motor use or after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on that same day.** See map on page 53.

## RUSSIAN RIVER:

Stay legal - before you cast, check emergency orders [www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR).

- The Russian River from an ADF&G marker located 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G marker located 600 yards downstream of the falls:
  - **May 1-June 10: Closed to all sport fishing.**
  - **June 11-August 20:** Only artificial flies are allowed. See the map on page 54 for details about the allowable gear in fly-fishing-only waters.
  - **Sockeye salmon:**
    - **June 11-August 20:** Open to sockeye salmon fishing.
    - 3 per day, 6 in possession, no size limit.
  - **Coho salmon:**
    - **July 1-September 30:** Open to coho salmon fishing.
    - 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.
    - A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  - **Other species:** See page 53.
- The Russian River upstream from an ADF&G marker about 600 yards downstream of the falls:
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
  - **May 1-June 10: Closed to all sport fishing.**
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
  - **Other species:** See page 53.

## LOWER AND UPPER RUSSIAN LAKES:

- **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
- Open year-round to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
- **Dolly Varden:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.

## UPPER RUSSIAN/GOAT CREEK - upstream from ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream from its confluence with Upper Russian Lake:

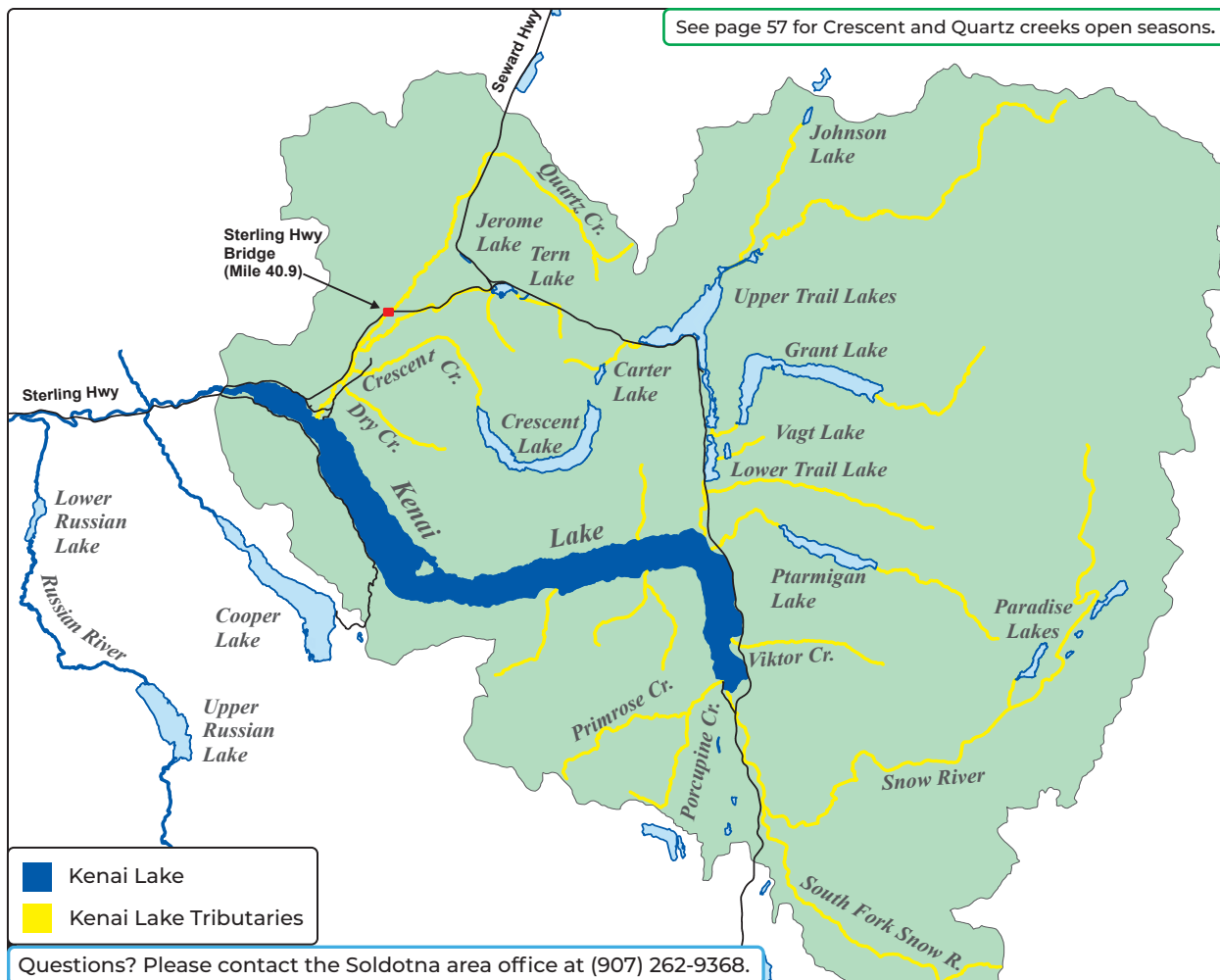
- **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
- **May 1-June 10 and August 1-August 31:**
  - **Closed to all sport fishing.**
- Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
- **Other species:** See page 53.



Boyd Patrick, sockeye salmon, Russian River

...continued

See page 57 for Crescent and Quartz creeks open seasons.



Questions? Please contact the Soldotna area office at (907) 262-9368.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS - KENAI LAKE & TRIBUTARIES

**Inclusive waters:** Kenai Lake and all other lakes of the Kenai Lake drainage, and all flowing waters tributary to Kenai Lake.

Fishing is open year-round for all species in lakes and ponds unless otherwise noted below or in special regulations.

**May 1-June 10:** Closed to sport fishing for all species in all flowing waters unless otherwise noted in special regulations.

**Stay legal - before you cast, check emergency orders at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR).**

### KING SALMON

- Closed year-round to king salmon fishing.

### CHUM, COHO, PINK, & SOCKEYE SALMON (COMBO)

- Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.

### ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN (COMBO)

- **In flowing waters:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- **In lakes:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.

### ARCTIC GRAYLING

- **In lakes and all flowing waters:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

### RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT (COMBO)

- **In flowing waters:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- **In unstocked lakes:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
- **In stocked lakes:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer. See pages 86-87.
- **20 inches or longer:**
  - There is a total annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer taken north of the latitude of Point Adam, from the waters of the following areas: West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Lake drainages, Kenai River tributaries, and Kenai Peninsula.
  - If you retain a rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer must immediately record that harvest. See page 4 for recording instructions.

### NORTHERN PIKE - INVASIVE SPECIES

- No limit
- The Kenai Peninsula is no longer known to contain any northern pike populations. Northern pike are not native to the Southcentral area.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. If you catch a northern pike anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula, please keep it and bring it to the nearest ADF&G office.

**LAKE TROUT**

- In lakes and all flowing waters:
  - **20 inches or longer:** 2 per day, 2 in possession.
  - **Less than 20 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.

**BURBOT**

- In lakes and all flowing waters:
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

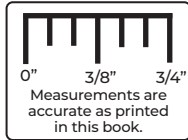
**OTHER FINFISH**

- In lakes and all flowing waters:
  - No limit.

**METHODS AND MEANS - KENAI LAKE & TRIBUTARIES**

**BAIT RESTRICTIONS:**

- In Kenai Lake except within ¼ mile of all inlet streams:
  - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.
- Within ¼ mile of all inlet streams of Kenai Lake and on the Kenai River from the Sterling Highway Bridge upstream approximately ¼ mile to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Kenai Lake:
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
- In all flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainages:
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free sliding on the line or leader.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure or fly with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
- In non-flowing waters:
  - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.



**SPECIAL REGULATIONS - KENAI LAKE & TRIBUTARIES**

**KENAI LAKE** (except within ¼ mile of all inlet streams):

- Open year-round to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.

**KENAI LAKE** within ¼ mile of all inlet streams:

- **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

**KENAI LAKE OUTLET:**

- Kenai Lake within ¼ mile above the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of the lake:
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

**CRESCENT CREEK DRAINAGE** - including Crescent Lake:

- **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

**QUARTZ CREEK:**

- Upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge (Mile 40.9):
  - **June 11-September 14:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **November 1-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 31:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- Downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

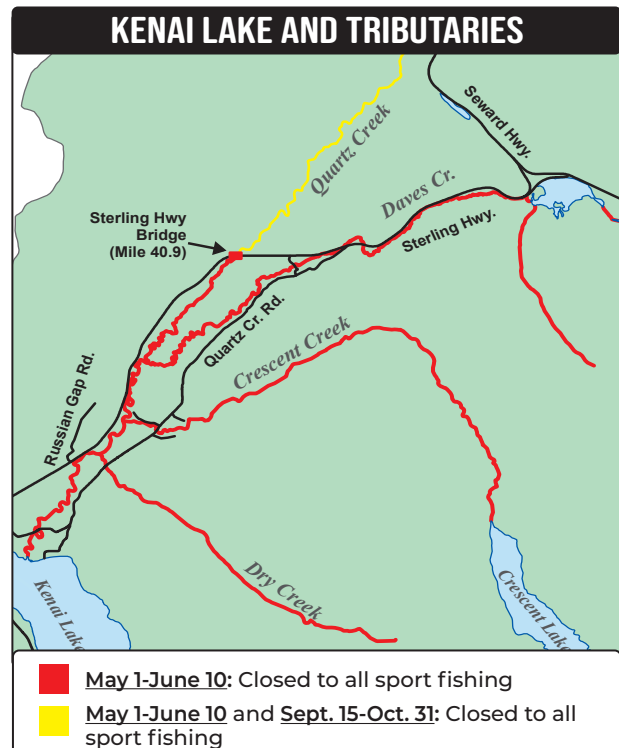
**SNOW RIVER DRAINAGE:**

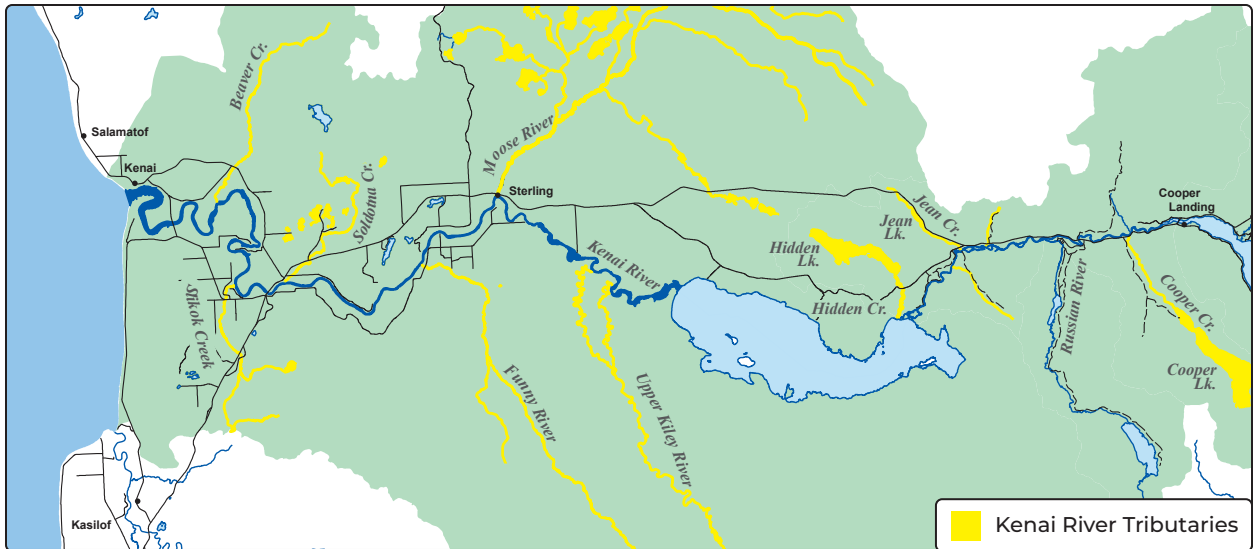
- South Fork:
  - **June 11-September 14:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **November 1-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 31:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- Remainder of drainage:
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

**TRAIL LAKE:**

- Open year-round to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.

...continued





## GENERAL REGULATIONS - KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES

**Inclusive waters:** Tributaries of the Kenai River between the outlet of Kenai Lake and the mouth of the Kenai River (except those noted below):

**Fishing is open year-round for all species in lakes and ponds unless otherwise noted below or in special regulations.**

**May 1-June 10: Closed to sport fishing for all species in all flowing waters** unless otherwise noted in special regulations.

**Upper Kenai River tributaries** are those that join the Kenai River between Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake, and **DOES NOT** include the Russian River, the mainstem Kenai River, or Skilak Lake.

**Lower Kenai River tributaries** are those that join Skilak Lake and the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Cook Inlet, and **DOES NOT** include the mainstem Kenai River or Skilak Lake.

**Stay legal - before you cast, check emergency orders [www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR).**

### **KING SALMON**

- **Closed year-round to king salmon fishing.**

### **CHUM, COHO, PINK, & SOCKEYE SALMON (COMBO)**

- **In flowing waters:**
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
- **In lakes:**
  - 10 per day, 10 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

### **ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN (COMBO)**

- **In flowing waters:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- **In lakes:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.

### **ARCTIC GRAYLING**

- **In lakes and flowing waters:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

### **OTHER FINFISH**

- **In lakes and flowing waters:** No limit.

### **RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT (COMBO)**

- **In flowing waters:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- **In lakes:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
  - **20 inches or longer:**
    - There is a total annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer taken north of the latitude of Point Adam, from the waters of the following areas: West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Lake drainages, Kenai River tributaries, and Kenai Peninsula.
    - If you retain a rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 4 for instructions.

### **BURBOT**

- **In lakes and flowing waters:**
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

### **LAKE TROUT**

- **In flowing waters:**
  - **20 inches or longer:** 2 per day, 2 in possession.
  - **Less than 20 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- **In lakes and flowing waters:**
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

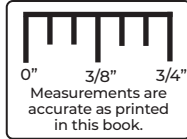
### **NORTHERN PIKE - INVASIVE SPECIES**

- No limit
- The Kenai Peninsula is no longer known to contain any northern pike populations. Northern pike are not native to the Southcentral area.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. If you catch a northern pike anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula, please keep it and bring it to the nearest ADF&G office.

## METHODS AND MEANS - KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES

### TACKLE RESTRICTIONS:

- In all flowing waters of the Kenai River tributaries:
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free sliding on the line or leader.



## SPECIAL REGULATIONS - LOWER KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES

**LOWER KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES** are those that join Skilak Lake and the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Cook Inlet, and **DOES NOT** include the mainstem Kenai River or Skilak Lake.

### FUNNY RIVER:

- **May 1-July 31:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- **August 1-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.

### KILLEY RIVER:

- **May 1-July 31:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- **August 1-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.

### MOOSE RIVER DRAINAGE:

- From its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge:
  - Closed year-round to king salmon fishing.
  - Open year-round to sport fishing for species other than king salmon.
  - **May 1-July 31:** Only artificial flies are allowed in these waters. See page 94 for a description of allowable gear.
- Remainder of drainage:
  - **May 1-June 10:** Closed to sport fishing in flowing waters.
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.

### SLIKOK CREEK:

- **May 1-July 31:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- **August 1-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.

### SOLDOTNA CREEK:

- **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.

## SPECIAL REGULATIONS - UPPER KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES

**UPPER KENAI RIVER TRIBUTARIES** are those that join the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Kenai Lake, and **DOES NOT** include the Russian River, the mainstem Kenai River, or Skilak Lake.

### COOPER CREEK:

- **June 11-September 14 and November 1-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- **May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 31:**
  - Closed to all sport fishing.

### COOPER LAKE:

- **Arctic char/Dolly Varden:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.

### HIDDEN CREEK:

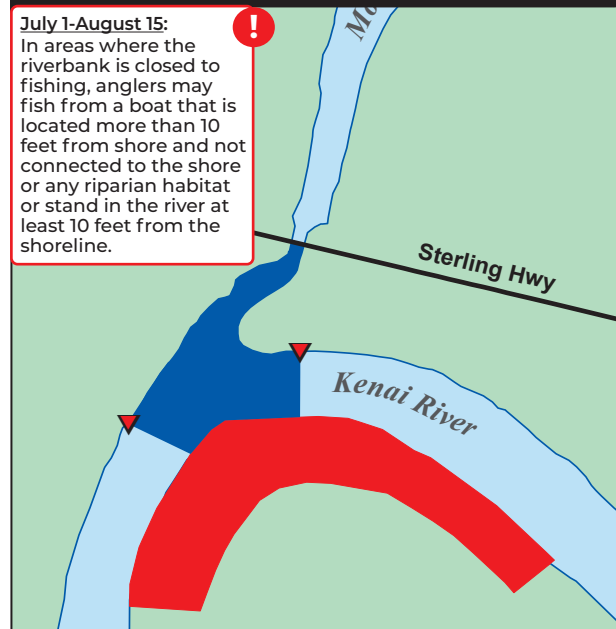
- Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.
- **May 1-June 10:** Closed to all sport fishing.

### HIDDEN LAKE:

- Closed year-round to king salmon and burbot fishing.
- **September 15-November 30:** Closed to all sport fishing.
- **December 1-September 14:** Open to sport fishing for species other than burbot and king salmon. See general regulations on page 58 for other salmon in lakes and ponds.
- Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.
- **Lake trout:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

## MOOSE RIVER & CONFLUENCE AREA

**July 1-August 15:** In areas where the riverbank is closed to fishing, anglers may fish from a boat that is located more than 10 feet from shore and not connected to the shore or any riparian habitat or stand in the river at least 10 feet from the shoreline.



▼ ADF&G Marker

■ **July 1-Aug. 15:** Closed riverbank

■ **May 1-July 31:** No sport fishing from boats

**May 1-July 31:** Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies. See page 94 for "artificial fly" definition.