

Current Regulatory Complexities¹

Kenai Early-Run King Salmon Management

Revisions to this management plan are proposed in order to streamline and increase the predictability of management.

The following list of EOs for 2012-2016 highlight the historical management complexity in this fishery.

2016

- 2-KS-1-03-16 May 1 This emergency order closes the Kenai River to sport fishing for king salmon 12:01 AM from the mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2016. Sport fishing for king salmon will remain closed from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2016 in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake.
- 2-KS-1-15-16 June 4 This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-2KS-1-03-16. This order 12:01 AM prohibits the retention of king salmon while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. Retention of king salmon is also prohibited in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake. Only 1 unbaited, barbless, single-hook, artificial lure may be used. King salmon may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately. The use of bait is also prohibited in the waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. These provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 4 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2016.
- 2-KS-1-19-16 June 18 This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-1-15-16. This order 12:01 AM allows the harvest of king salmon while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek. In addition, retention of king salmon is prohibited from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake. When fishing for king salmon in waters where retention is prohibited, only 1 unbaited, barbless, single-hook, artificial lure may be used. King salmon may not be retained or possessed, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately. These provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 18¹ through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2016.
- 2-KS-1-24-16 July 1 This emergency order prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in the 12:01 AM Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2016.
- 2-KS-1-28-16 July 1 This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-1-24-16 which 12:01 AM prohibited the use of bait while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake. This emergency order maintains the bait restriction based on concerns for achieving

¹ Begich et al. 2017 ADFG FMR 17-06.

the low end of the escapement goal for king salmon and is effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31, 2016.

2015

- 2-KS-1-05-15 May 1 This emergency order closes the Kenai River to sport fishing for king salmon 12:01 AM from the mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning at 12:01 a.m., Friday, May 1, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, June 30, 2015. Sport fishing for king salmon will remain closed from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2015 in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake.
- 2-KS-1-35-15 July 1 The use of bait will be prohibited in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream 12:01 AM to an ADF&G marker at the outlet of Skilak Lake. Effective 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2015.

2014

- 2-KS-1-04-14 May 1 This emergency order closes the Kenai River to sport fishing for king salmon 12:01 AM from the mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 1, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, June 30, 2014. Sport fishing for king salmon will remain closed from 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2014 in waters of the Kenai River drainage from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge.
- 2-KS-1-26-14 July 1 The Kenai River late-run king salmon fishery opens July 1. Harvest will 12:01 AM be allowed under existing regulations in a portion of the Lower Kenai River from ADF&G Regulatory Markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek. Use of bait and multiple hooks is prohibited in the Kenai River during the month of July.

2013

- 2-KS-1-11-13 May 9 From 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 16, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013: In the Kenai River drainage, from the mouth upstream to Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and less than 55 inches in length may not be possessed or retained, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately. Harvest of king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length is still allowed.
- From 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 14, 2013: In the Kenai River drainage from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and less than 55 inches in length may not be possessed or retained, may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Harvest of king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length is still allowed.
- Use of bait is not allowed in the Kenai River drainage from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge.

2-KS-1-22-13 June 18 From 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 20, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013: In the Kenai River, from the mouth upstream to Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, king salmon fishing is closed. No king salmon of any size may be retained. King salmon may not be targeted and any king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

From 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 14, 2013: In the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, king salmon fishing is closed. No king salmon of any size may be retained. King salmon may not be targeted and any king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

2-KS-1-24-13 June 25 Kenai River anglers are advised that, in a continued effort to conserve early-run king salmon and ensure adequate escapement of late-run king salmon, the use of bait and multiple hooks is prohibited in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, 2013 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Anglers may use only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. The Kenai River, from a department marker located 300 yards downstream of Slikok Creek upstream to Skilak Lake, will remain closed to king salmon fishing through July 14.

2012

2-KS-1-11-12 June 13 From 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 15, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012: In the Kenai River drainage, from the mouth upstream to Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, only king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained. King salmon 20 inches or greater in length and less than 55 inches in length may not be possessed or retained, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately. Harvest of king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length is still allowed.

From 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012: In the Kenai River drainage from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, only king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length may be retained. King salmon 20 inches or greater in length and less than 55 inches in length may not be possessed or retained, may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Harvest of king salmon less than 20 inches in length or 55 inches or greater in length is still allowed.

Use of bait is not allowed in the Kenai River drainage from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge.

2-KS-1-17-12 June 19 From 12:01 a.m., Friday, June 22, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012: In the Kenai River, from the mouth upstream to Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, king salmon fishing is closed. No king salmon of any size may be retained. King salmon may not be targeted and any king salmon

caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

From 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2012: In the Kenai River, from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, king salmon fishing is closed. No king salmon of any size may be retained. King salmon may not be targeted and any king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

From 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012: In the Kenai River drainage, from the mouth upstream to Skilak Lake, and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, use of bait/scent is not allowed.

2-KS-1-18-12 June 19 This emergency order prohibits the use of bait while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning at 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2012.