

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT

OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-KS-1-43-20

**Issued at Soldotna:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 1, 2020

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m., Saturday, August 15, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the use of bait and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121 (1)(B) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 1 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, August 15, 2020.

### **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 August 1 – August 15, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Colton G. Lipka  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The optimal escapement goal (OEG) for Kenai River late-run king salmon is 15,000 to 30,000 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer. In 2020, king salmon runs throughout Cook Inlet have consistently and significantly underperformed preseason expectations resulting in restrictions and closures of inriver and marine sport fisheries. Through July 27, 2020, approximately 6,019 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer have passed the river mile 13.7 king salmon sonar. Inseason projections indicate the run would have to be more than 4 days late to achieve the OEG.

Standard regulations for the Kenai River drainage downstream of Skilak Lake allow the use of bait and multiple hooks beginning August 1. Historically late-run king salmon continue to enter the Kenai River during early August while inriver anglers are targeting coho salmon stocks. To reduce the mortality of king salmon inriver it is warranted to remove bait from the river at this time.

Restrictive actions to reduce harvest of Kenai River king salmon are being taken in the commercial fishery as well.

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.