

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-24-24

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 21, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 15, 2024,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-7-13-24 issued March 14, 2024. It restricts gear to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure and maintains a bag limit of two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from June 21 through July 15, 2024.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(6)(D)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(6)(A)(iii) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 21 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 15, 2024:

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

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(A) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used(iii) from June 21 – July 15, from its mouth upstream approximately two miles to ADF&G regulatory markers;

(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(ii) from June 16 – July 15; bag and possession limit of two hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, 10 hatchery king salmon under 20 inches; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; a person who takes and retains two hatchery king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from the Ninilchik River may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day; and

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

As of June 18, 363 naturally-produced king salmon had been counted at the Ninilchik River weir. Based on the 2021–2023 Ninilchik River king salmon run timing, the escapement is projected to be 875 fish, which is below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 900–1,600. As specified in the *Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery management plan* (5 AAC 56.130), the commissioner may, by emergency order, further liberalize or restrict the Ninilchik River hatchery king salmon sport fishery to provide more harvest opportunity or achieve the SEG and broodstock collection goals. Based on the current projection of naturally-produced king salmon, it is not likely that both the SEG and broodstock collection goal will be achieved. Removing the use of bait will reduce the catch and catch-and-release mortality of naturally-produced king salmon when fishing for hatchery king salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-KS-7-13-24, issued on Thursday, March 14, 2024, which restricted gear to single-hook with the use of bait from May 25–July 15 is superseded by this emergency order.

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.