

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-1-57-24

Issued at Homer: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24,
2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31,
2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limits for coho salmon to 1 fish 16" greater in length in the flowing fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula excluding the Kenai River. It also prohibits the use of bait, and restricts gear to single-hook, artificial lure in the flowing fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula excluding the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.120(2)(A) and 5 AAC 56.122(a)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24 through Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(2) salmon other than king salmon,


(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit of three fish, of which only one may be coho salmon; a coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

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)(1) from August 24 – December 31 in flowing waters, except the Kasilof River drainage below the Sterling Highway Bridge, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Mike Booz
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on the performance indicators of both freshwater and saltwater sport fisheries from throughout Southcentral Alaska, this year's coho salmon run is well below average and restrictions or closures have already been issued for the Northern Cook Inlet area, Anchorage Bowl Area, and Valdez. Coho salmon stock assessment on the Kenai Peninsula is limited to a radio telemetry project on the Kenai River and a few escapement monitoring projects. Currently, there are no escapement goals for any coho salmon stocks on the Kenai Peninsula. On the Anchor River, coho salmon escapement has been fully enumerated intermittently since

the late 1980's and consistently in recent years since 2019. Through August 20, the 2024 Anchor River coho salmon cumulative count is 580 which is approximately 61% below the historical average count and 26% below the recent 5-year average count for this date. Given the lack of additional information, a precautionary approach is warranted for the remainder of the coho salmon run.

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.