

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-50-24

Issued at Soldotna: Monday, August 12, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 16, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order restricts sport fishing gear to one single hook or one single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers at the Moose River confluence through August 31, 2024.

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The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121(1)(B) is superseded by this emergency order.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 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 16 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 31, 2023.

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for 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 16 – August 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the Moose River confluence only one single hook may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt G Miller

Matt G Miller
Fish and Game Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

The recovery goal for Kenai River late-run king salmon is 14,250 – 30,000 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer. In 2024, the king salmon runs to the Kenai River have significantly underperformed preseason expectations resulting in restrictions and closures of inriver and marine sport fisheries. Through August 11, 2024, approximately 6,070 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer have passed the river mile 13.7 king salmon sonar. Inseason projections estimate the run will not achieve the recovery goal. The Kenai River late-run king salmon plan allows the use of bait and multiple hooks beginning August 16. Historically late-run king salmon continue to enter the Kenai River during August while inriver anglers are targeting coho salmon stocks. To reduce the mortality of king salmon incidentally caught by anglers targeting coho salmon it is warranted to remove multiple hooks from the sport fishery at this time.

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.