

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-1-54-24

Issued at: Soldotna, Wednesday, August 21, 2024

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 15, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-SS-1-44-24 issued Wednesday, July 31, 2024 and allows one baited, single hook or single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Kasilof River from its mouth upstream to the downstream side of the Sterling Highway Bridge. In addition, from the Sterling Highway Bridge upstream to Tustumena Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (8)(F) and (G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 24 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 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.

(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

(F) in flowing waters, from August 23 – September 15, from its mouth upstream to the downstream side of the Sterling Highway Bridge, one baited, single hook or single-hook, artificial lure may be used; from the Sterling Highway Bridge upstream to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Tustumena Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Matt G Miller
Fish and Game Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION: The department has taken actions throughout Cook Inlet to restrict or close fisheries for king and coho salmon in 2024. Emergency Order 2-KS-44-24 was issued Wednesday, July 31, 2024 to prohibit bait in the Kasilof River to reduce mortality on wild king salmon returning to the river and, consistent with restrictions taken in other Cook Inlet coho salmon fisheries, provide a cautious approach to the Kasilof River coho salmon fishery.

Although assessment and reports of coho salmon throughout Cook Inlet indicate weak runs, abundance on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers seem to be comparable to recent years and able to sustain some harvest. Therefore one baited, single hook or single-hook, artificial lure is allowed from the mouth of the Kasilof River upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge through September 15, 2024. To manage conservatively and consistently with other Kenai Peninsula coho salmon fisheries Emergency Order 2-SS-1-57-24 is also being

issued to reduce the bag limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length to a bag and possession of one coho salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order No. 2-KS-44-24 issued Wednesday, June 31, 2024, extended the date for when the use of bait is prohibited on the Kasilof River. From August 2 through September 15, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly may be used in the flowing waters of the Kasilof River drainage from its mouth upstream to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Tustumena Lake 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.