

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-SS-1-63-24

**Issued at Soldotna:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 19, 2024

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:** This emergency order supersedes EO 2-SS-1-55-24 and reduces the bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Kenai River to one fish; and restricts gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the regulatory marker at the outlet of Skilak Lake.

**REGULATION:** The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120(4)(A)(iii), 5 AAC 57.120(4)(A)(iv), and 5 AAC 57.121 (1)(K) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 19 through Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

- (4) salmon other than king salmon,
  - (A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:
    - (iii) the bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is three fish of which not more than one per day and in possession may be coho salmon; in addition the limit of pink salmon is six fish;
    - (iv) from September 1 – November 30, in the flowing waters of the Kenai River, excluding the tributaries, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon is one fish per day;

**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:
  - (K) from January 1 – December 31 in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory 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:

*Matt G Miller*

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Matt G Miller  
Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:** Based on the performance indicators of both freshwater and saltwater sport fisheries throughout Southcentral Alaska and run assessments from ADF&G weir projects, this year's coho salmon run is well below average. Restrictions or closures have already been issued for the Northern Cook Inlet area, Anchorage Bowl Area, and Kenai Peninsula streams including the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. On the Anchor River, coho salmon escapement has been fully enumerated intermittently since the late 1980's and consistently in recent years since 2019. The Anchor River coho salmon projection for 2024 is just over 2,000 fish which is the weakest run seen for that system. Given the lack of additional information, a precautionary approach is warranted for the remainder of the Kenai River coho salmon run.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:** Emergency Order 2-SS-1-55-24 issued August 21, 2024 reduced the bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Kenai River to one fish from Saturday, August 24 through Saturday, August 31 and a bag and possession limit for coho salmon of two fish from Sunday, September 1 through Saturday, November 30, 2024 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.