

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-4-22-24

Issued at: Kodiak, Thursday, June 13, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 13, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 9, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order 2-KS-4-15-24 and expands waters closed to sport fishing for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage downstream to the markers located at the mouth of the Chignik Lagoon at a line from 56° 20.38' N. lat., 158° 29.14' W. long. to 56° 20.27' N. lat., 158° 28.20' W. long. This includes all of Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used while sport fishing.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 65.020(1)(A) are superseded and 5 AAC 65.022(f) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective Thursday, June 13 through Friday, August 9, 2024:

5 AAC 65.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(1) king salmon:

(A) in fresh waters: may be taken only from January 1 through July 25; except that in the Chignik River drainage, downstream to the markers located at the mouth of the Chignik Lagoon at a line from 56° 20.38' N. lat., 158° 29.14' W. long. to 56° 20.27' N. lat., 158° 28.20' W. long, and including Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries, sport fishing for king salmon is closed, king salmon may not be possessed or retained; a king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; and as follows:

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(f) In the Chignik River drainage, downstream to the markers located at the mouth of the Chignik Lagoon at a line from 56° 20.38' N. lat., 158° 29.14' W. long. to 56° 20.27' N. lat., 158° 28.20' W. long, and including Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries; only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Tyler Polum,
Kodiak Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish and has not been met during five of the last 10 years and the 2023 season was the lowest weir count on record for the Chignik River king salmon run. In 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) designated the Chignik River king salmon a stock of concern in response to these poor returns. Poor king salmon production statewide and low escapements in the Chignik River justifies closure of the king salmon sport fishery. Additionally, in order to reduce mortality, the use of bait is prohibited, and lures are limited to one single-hook, artificial lure within Chignik River drainage. It is warranted to expand the waters closed to sport fishing and the use of bait to the mouth of the lagoon to begin the king salmon season conservatively in alignment with the action plan developed as a response to the stock of concern designation by the board. The expanded closed area aligns the closed area of the sport fishery with a corresponding subsistence closure for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage that includes the entire drainage to the mouth of the lagoon. The Chignik River king salmon run will be monitored daily during the season and fishing opportunity may be restored by subsequent emergency order if inseason assessment of the Chignik River king salmon run indicates the BEG will be attained.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-KS-4-15-24, issued on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, which closed sport fishing for king salmon in the Chignik River drainage downstream to Mensis Point is superseded by this emergency order and the area closed to sport fishing for king salmon by that emergency order is extended.

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; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Alaska Wildlife Troopers Kodiak Office.