

PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-24-23

Issued at: Soldotna, Thursday, June 8, 2023

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m. Saturday, June 24, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the personal use set gillnet fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 77.540. (b) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Thursday, June 15 through 11:00 p.m. Saturday, June 24, 2023.

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(b) Salmon may not be taken with a set gillnet in the Central District.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt Miller

Matt G Miller
Cook Inlet Fish and Game Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

ADF&G manages the Kasilof River early-run king salmon sport fishery to achieve a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700–1,400 naturally-produced king salmon, measured at the Crooked Creek Facility weir. The personal use set gillnet fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River targets sockeye and king salmon bound for the Kasilof River but also harvests an unknown number of king salmon bound for the Kenai River. Based on the preseason Kenai River forecast of 2,914 large king salmon (75 cm mid eye to tail fork length and longer) and expectations of poor performance from king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet, emergency orders were issued in March to restrict or close Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries.

As of June 7, only 233 large king salmon have been enumerated past the sonar at river mile 14 resulting in projections not only below the optimal escapement goal (OEG) for early-run Kenai River king salmon (3,900 – 6,600 large king salmon) but significantly below the forecast of 2,914 large king salmon. To reduce the mortality of Kenai River king salmon in the personal use set gillnet fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River, the fishery is closed.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 2-RS-1-09-23 issued March 2, 2023 reduced the fishing periods in the personal use set gillnet fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., to 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 15 through Sunday, June 18 and 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday, June 19 through Saturday, June 24, 2023.

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.