

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 2-KS-4-21-26

**Issued at:** Kodiak, Thursday, March 19, 2026

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 1, 2026

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 9, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes 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 also includes 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The provisions of 5 AAC 65.020(1)(A) are superseded and 5 AAC 65.022(f) are added by this emergency order.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 Monday, June 1 through Sunday, August 9, 2026:

#### **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:

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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 in most recent years. The 2024 and 2025 seasons were improvements over other recent escapements with 1,116 and 1,391 king salmon counted, respectively. While the record low return was in 2023 with only 267 king salmon counted. In 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries designated 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 minimize mortality, the use of bait is prohibited, and tackle is limited to one single-hook, artificial lure within the Chignik River drainage including the Chignik Lagoon, and Chignik and Black Lakes and their tributaries. 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 achieved.

**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.