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**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
ALASKA**

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Shellene Hutter, Department of Fish and Game

FROM: April Simpson, Office of the Lieutenant Governor 465.4081 

DATE: May 9, 2024

RE: Filed Permanent Regulations: Board of Fisheries

Board of Fisheries regulations re: Upper Cook Inlet Sport, Commercial, Personal Use Fisheries (5 AAC 21.330 - 77.540)

Attorney General File:	2024200185
Regulation Filed:	5/9/2024
Effective Date:	6/8/2024
Print:	250, July 2024

cc with enclosures: Colleen Bailey, Department of Law
Judy Herndon, LexisNexis



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Law

CIVIL DIVISION

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Juneau, Alaska 99811
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May 8, 2024

The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom
Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

Re: *5 AAC 21.330 - 277.540: BOF - Upper Cook Inlet Sport, Commercial,
Personal Use Fisheries*
Our file: 2024200185

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

The Department of Law has reviewed the attached regulations of the Board of Fisheries against the statutory standards of the Administrative Procedure Act. Based upon our review, we find no legal problems. This letter constitutes the written statement of approval under AS 44.62.060(b) and (c) that authorizes your office to file the attached regulations. The regulations were adopted by the Board of Fisheries after the close of the public comment period.

The regulations concern revision to the commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times. In addition, the regulations revise harvest limits, methods, and thresholds including gear usage, possession, and bag limits. The Board of Fisheries have also made changes in conservation and fishery development regulations including escapement and management goals. Finally, the regulations modify current rules related to customary and traditional subsistence uses and amount reasonably necessary for subsistence.

These regulations are tied to the start of the 2024 fishing season in early summer and to the pre-season publication of regulations summaries for fishermen's use. Accordingly, we respectfully request that these regulations be filed as soon as possible.

The October 20, 2023 public notice, December 6, 2023 first supplemental notice, January 24, 2024 second supplemental public notice, and the April, 15, 2024 certification of adoption order all state that this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation. Therefore, a fiscal note under AS 44.62.060 is not required.

We have made some technical corrections to conform the regulations in accordance with AS 44.62.060. As a result of these corrections, the page number of the project increased from 22 pages as indicated in the April 15, 2024 certification of adoption to the attached 23 pages authorized for filing. The corrections are incorporated into the attached copy of the regulations.

Sincerely,

TREG TAYLOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Rebecca C. Polizzotto
Digitally signed by
Rebecca C. Polizzotto
Date: 2024.05.08
16:57:51 -08'00'

By: Rebecca C. Polizzotto
Chief Assistant Attorney General
Legislation, Regulations, and
Legislative Research Section

RCP/kmd

CC w/enclosure: Shellene Hutter
Department of Fish and Game

Aaron Peterson, Assistant Attorney General
Department of Law

**ORDER CERTIFYING THE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS
OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

The attached 22 pages of regulations, changes to 5 AAC for sport, commercial and personal use fisheries occurring in the Cook Inlet area are certified to be a correct copy of the regulation changes that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted at its public hearing held February 23rd – March 5th, 2024 in Anchorage, Alaska under the authority of AS 16.05.251 and after compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), specifically including notice under AS 44.62.190 and 44.62.200 and opportunity for public comment under AS 44.62.210.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

On the record, in considering public comments, the Alaska Board of Fisheries paid special attention to the cost to private persons of the regulatory action being taken.

The regulation changes described in this order take effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the lieutenant governor, as provided in AS 44.62.180.

DATE: 4/15/2024
Anchorage, Alaska

DocuSigned by:
Doug Vincent-Lang
32E3FEFE58284DB...

Douglas S. Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game

April Simpson for

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on May 9, 2024 at 1:46 p.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.040 - 44.62.120.

for *Nancy Dahlstrom*
Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska

Effective: June 8, 2024

Register: 250, July 2024

FOR DELEGATION OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY

I, NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, designate the following state employees to perform the Administrative Procedures Act filing functions of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor:

April Simpson, Regulations and Initiatives Specialist

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed and affixed the Seal of the State of Alaska, in Juneau, on May 15th, 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nancy Dahlstrom", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**NANCY DAHLSTROM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Title 5. Fish and Game.

Part 1. Commercial and Subsistence Fishing and Private Nonprofit Salmon Hatcheries.

Chapter 21. Cook Inlet Area.

5 AAC 21.330 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(i) Dip nets, as defined in 5 AAC 39.105(d)(24), may be used in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District. (In effect before 1982; am 4/14/82, Register 82; am 5/11/85, Register 94; am 4/18/86, Register 98; am 3/29/87, Register 101; am 6/10/89, Register 110; em am 4/30/91 - 5/30/91, Register 118 [not printed]; am 7/21/91, Register 119; am 4/7/93, Register 126; am 7/23/94, Register 131; am 5/31/96, Register 138; am 8/8/99, Register 151; am 3/11/2001, Register 157; am 3/2/2011, Register 197; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 3/15/2017, Register 221; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 9/19/2019, Register 231; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 21.350(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(8) within one statute mile of the terminus, at mean lower low water, of Silver Salmon Creek at 59° 58.85' N. lat., 152° 38.66' W. long., and Shelter Creek at 59° 53.10' N. lat., 152° 48.24' W. long.

(In effect before 1982; am 4/14/82, Register 82; am 5/11/85, Register 94; am 4/18/86, Register 98; am 3/20/87, Register 101; am 6/10/89, Register 110; am 4/7/93, Register 126; am 7/23/94, Register 131; am 5/31/96, Register 138; am 6/13/99, Register 150; am 8/8/99, Register 151; am 6/11/2005, Register 174; am 5/26/2006, Register 178; am 3/2/2011, Register 197; am 3/22/2014,

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Register 209; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 3/15/2017, Register 221; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 9/19/2019, Register 231; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

((Note to Publisher: please change period at the end of 5 AAC 21.350(b)(7) to a semicolon)))

5 AAC 21.353(e)(1) is amended by adding a new sub-paragraph to read:

(E) Drift Gillnet Area 3;

(Eff. 6/11/2005, Register 174; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am 9/12/2008, Register 187; am 5/21/2011, Register 198; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; em am 6/30/2011 - 7/13/2011, Register 199; am 11/25/2011, Register 200; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 21.358(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries based on the abundance of sockeye salmon counted through the weirs on Larson, Chelatna, and Judd Lakes, and based on the abundance of king and coho salmon counted through the Little Susitna River weir or other salmon abundance indices as the department deems appropriate.

(Eff. 5/31/96, Register 138; am 5/14/97, Register 142; am 6/13/99, Register 150; am 5/18/2000, Register 154; am 6/22/2002, Register 162; am 6/11/2005, Register 174; am 6/4/2008, Register

Register 250, July 2024 FISH AND GAME

186; am 5/21/2011, Register 198; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 21.366(a)(3) is amended to read:

(3) the harvest may not exceed 4,500 [12,500] king salmon;

(Eff. 4/18/86, Register 98; am 5/14/97, Register 142; am 6/13/99, Register 150; am 6/22/2002, Register 162; am 6/11/2005, Register 174; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; em am 5/1/2009 - 8/28/2009, Register 190; am 5/21/2011, Register 198; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC Chapter 21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 21.382. Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management

plan. (a) The department shall manage the late run of Kenai River king salmon to achieve a recovery goal of 14,250 - 30,000 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer as described in this section. Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River late-run king salmon recovery goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the escapement and inriver goal ranges for Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

(b) The purposes of this management plan are to rebuild the Kenai River late-run king salmon stock to levels that consistently achieve management targets established by the board and to provide sustainable harvest opportunities. The Kenai River late-run king salmon will remain a stock of concern until the department recommends delisting to the board at a Board of Fisheries

meeting and the board adopts the delisting recommendation. The provisions of this management plan are in effect from June 20 through August 15 and supersede the provisions in 5 AAC 21.359 until the recovery goal is either

(1) achieved or exceeded for three consecutive years, one of which is at or above 18,000 fish, which is the estimated number of spawners needed for maximum sustained yield and is expected to achieve the goal established in (a) of this section in future years; or

(2) achieved four of six consecutive years, one of which is at or above 18,000 fish and is expected to achieve the goal established in (a) of this section in future years.

(c) If the recovery goal is projected to be achieved, the commissioner may establish by emergency order fishing seasons as follows in the Kenai River sport fishery:

(1) retention of king salmon 34 inches or greater in length, as defined in 5 AAC 75.995(a) is prohibited; or

(2) retention of king salmon is prohibited.

(d) In the Kenai River sport fishery,

(1) If the recovery goal is not projected to be achieved, the Kenai River is closed to sport fishing for king salmon; a king salmon that is caught must be released immediately and a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(2) from July 1 through August 15, a person may not use more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake;

(3) from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to an ADF&G marker at the outlet of Skilak Lake, the bag limit for sockeye salmon is six per day, 12 in possession; and

(4) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory

marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a nonmotorized vessel on Mondays in July; for purposes of this paragraph, a 'nonmotorized vessel' is one that does not have a motor on board.

(e) The sport fisheries in the salt waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point at 59° 40.00' N. lat., are closed to the taking of king salmon.

(f) In the Central District, the commercial drift gillnet fishery is closed within two miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline.

(g) In the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District set gillnet commercial fishery,

(1) from June 20 through June 30, when the preseason forecast of king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer is greater than 14,250 fish, including harvest and forecast error, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery may be opened as follows:

(A) each setnet permit holder may use up to one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth;

(B) is open for not more than two eight-hour periods;

(C) with a 48-hour continuous closure per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;

(D) fishery openings will be based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables by section as follows:

(i) Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), three hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(ii) Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Area 244-31), four hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(iii) opening times will be based on NOAA certified tide tables;

(2) from July 15 through July 27, when the inseason projection of king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer is greater than 14,250 fish, including harvest and projection error, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery may be opened as follows:

(A) each setnet permit holder may use up to one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth;

(B) is open for not more than four eight-hour periods;

(C) with a 48-hour continuous closure per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;

(D) fishery openings will be based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables by section as follows:

(i) Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), three hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(ii) Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-31, 244-32), four hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(iii) Kenai River Mouth to Boulder Point (Stat Areas 244-41, 244-42), five hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(iv) opening times will be based on NOAA certified tide tables;

(3) From July 28 through August 15, when the inseason projection of king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer is greater than 14,250 fish, accounting for anticipated harvest, projection error and inseason run strength, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery may be opened as follows:

(A) each setnet permit holder may use up to one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth;

(B) is open for not more than two eight-hour periods;

(C) with a 48-hour continuous closure per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;

(D) fishery openings will be based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables by section as follows:

(i) Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), three hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(ii) Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-31, 244-32), four hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(iii) Kenai River Mouth to Boulder Point (Stat Areas 244-41, 244-42), five hours later than the Seldovia District low tide;

(iv) opening times will be based on NOAA certified tide tables;

(4) in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.365, and 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), commercial fishing periods will be based on the abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers;

(5) From June 20 through July 31;

(A) allow for the use of dip nets as an alternative gear type for holders of a S04H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit;

(B) openings may occur outside of specified openings in this section based on abundance of sockeye salmon, as announced by emergency order, for not more than three 12-hour periods per week;

(C) a S04H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit holder may operate not more than four dip nets at a time, each dip net must be operated by either the permit holder or an ADFG licensed crewmember;

(D) retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited, except that a king salmon that is brought aboard the vessel or to shore is subject to (i) - (j) of this section;

(E) fishing with a dip net may occur from a vessel or from shore; fishing from shore must occur at the location of a shore fishery tract identified in the recorded plat for that AS 38.05.082 lease; nothing in this subsection affects or changes the terms or conditions of an AS 38.05.082 lease and its lessee.

(h) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.365, the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) is closed to commercial fishing.

(i) Commercially harvested king salmon

(1) may only be delivered to a licensed shore-based processor or floating processor as defined in 5 AAC 39.130(o) that is required to be licensed under AS 43.75.020; and

(2) must be retained and made available to the department for sampling.

(j) Salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purposes of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board a vessel or removed from the water if fishing from shore with a dip net.

(k) In the Kenai and Kasilof River personal use fisheries,

(1) retention of king salmon is prohibited in the Kenai and Kasilof River personal use dip net fisheries; and

(2) a Kasilof River personal use set gillnet may not exceed 10 fathoms in length,

four and three-quarter inches in mesh size, and 29 meshes in depth.

(l) The department will conduct habitat assessments on a schedule that conforms to the Board of Fisheries' triennial meeting cycle, to the extent practicable. The department will report habitat assessment findings to the board and submit proposals to the board for appropriate modification of the Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan.

(m) For purposes of this section, statistical areas in the Central District are defined as follows:

(1) Statistical Area 244-21 (Ninilchik): waters of the Kasilof Section, as described in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(D), between the latitude of 60° 14.37' N. lat., to the latitude of the North Ninilchik River ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 04.02' N. lat., and within one and one-half nautical miles of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline;

(2) Statistical Area 244-22 (Cohoe): waters of the Kasilof Section, as described in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(D), between the latitude of 60° 14.37' N. lat., to the latitude of the South Kasilof River ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 22.56' N. lat., and within one and one-half nautical miles of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline;

(3) Statistical Area 244-31 (South K Beach): waters of the Kasilof Section, as described in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(D), between the North Kasilof River ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 24.23' N. lat., to 60° 27.10' N. lat., and within one and one-half nautical miles of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline.

(4) Statistical Area 244-32 (North K Beach): waters of the Kenai Section, as described in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(B), between the latitude of the Blanchard line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., to the latitude of South Kenai River ADF&G regulatory marker located 60° 30.49' N. lat., and within one and one-half nautical miles of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula

shoreline;

(5) Statistical Area 244-41 (Salamantof): waters of the Kenai Section, as described in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(B), between the latitude of North Kenai River ADF&G regulatory marker of 60° 34.24' N. lat., to the latitude of the base of Colliers Dock at 60° 40.35' N. lat., representing the southernmost of the pile-supported docks at Nikiski, and within one nautical mile of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline;

(6) Statistical Area 244-42 (East Foreland): waters of the East Foreland Section, as described in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(A), all waters from the northern boundary of the Upper Subdistrict at the latitude of Boulder Point at 60° 40.35' N. lat., to the latitude of the base of Colliers Dock at 60° 40.35' N. lat., representing the southernmost of the pile-supported docks at Nikiski, and within one nautical mile of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline. (Eff. 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 21.505(c) is amended to read:

(c) **Not** [NO] more than **100** [200] tons of smelt may be taken annually under this section. (Eff. 6/11/2005, Register 174; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

Part 2. Sport Fishing and Personal Use Fishery.

Chapter 56. Kenai Peninsula Area.

5 AAC 56.120(1)(B)(ii) is amended to read:

(ii) from January 1 - December 31, may be taken in stocked lakes and ponds; bag and possession limit of 10 fish; for the purpose of this subparagraph, "stocked lakes and ponds" means Arc Lake, Aurora Lake, Barbara Lake, Cabin Lake, [CECILLE LAKE,] Centennial Lake, Chugach Estates Lake, Douglas Lake, Elephant Lake, Encelewski Lake, Island Lake, **John Hedberg Lake**, Johnson Lake, Longmere Lake, Loon Lake, [QUINTIN LAKE,] Rogue Lake, Scout Lake, Sport Lake, Thetis Lake, Tirmore Lake, Troop Lake, and Upper Summit Lake;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 7/28/2023, Register 247; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8)(B)(v) is amended to read:

(v) from January 1 - July 31, a motor may **only** be used [ONLY] between the mouth of the Kasilof River and an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately **four** [THREE] miles upstream, and only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for the day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on the same day;

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8) is amended by adding a new sub-paragraph to read:

(E) from January 1 - August 15, in the Kasilof River from the boat launch at Tustamena Lake Campground downstream to the Sterling Highway bridge, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 3/15/2008, Register 185; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am 3/2/2011, Register 197; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 3/22/2014, Register 209; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 3/15/2017, Register 221; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 4/24/2020, Register 234; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 57. Kenai River Drainage Area.

5 AAC 57.120(a)(2)(A)(iv) is amended to read:

(iv) from **January 1 - July 31** [JANUARY 1 - JULY 14], a person may not possess a king salmon that has been filleted, headed, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in a manner that prevents determination of the length of fish taken until the fish is permanently offloaded from a vessel, if the fish was taken from a vessel, or permanently transported away from the fishing site, if the fish was taken from the riverbank; for the purposes of this sub-subparagraph, "fishing site" means the riverbank where the fish was hooked and removed from the water **to become** [BECOMING] part of the angler's bag limit;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am

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6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; add'l am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6/17/2018, Register 226; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 7/28/2023, Register 247; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 57.121(1)(K) is amended to read:

(K) from **January 1 - December 31** [NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31]
in the Kenai River from **an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 100 yards below the Moose River Confluence** [FROM BINGS LANDING] upstream to **an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake** [THE MOUTH OF THE UPPER KILLEY RIVER], only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 12/30/2006, Register 180; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 9/19/2019, Register 231; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 57.122(1) is amended by adding a new sub-paragraph to read:

(J) from September 15 - November 30, Hidden Lake;
(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

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5 AAC 57.150 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) If the department projects that the Russian River sockeye salmon escapement goal will be achieved the commissioner may by emergency order increase the bag and possession limit. (Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 58. Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

5 AAC 58.055 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(h) If the Anchor River preseason forecast or inseason projection is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 - 6,400 king salmon, the Upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point at 59° 40.00' N. lat., within a mile of shore will be closed to the retention of king salmon from May 1 to July 15.

(i) If the Kenai River is closed as specified in 5 AAC 57.160, the Upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point at 59° 40.00' N. lat., will be closed to the taking of king salmon from May 1 to July 15.

(j) If the Deshka River preseason forecast or inseason projection is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 9,000 - 18,000 king salmon, the Upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point at 59° 40.00' N. lat., within a mile of shore will be closed to the retention of king salmon from May 1 to July 15. (Eff. 5/22/96, Register 138; am 6/13/99, Register 150; am 3/8/2002, Register 161; am 12/29/2002, Register 164; am 12/1/2004, Register 172; am 2/10/2005, Register 173; am 3/15/2008, Register 185; am 3/2/2011, Register

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197; am 3/22/2014, Register 209; am 3/15/2017, Register 221; am 4/24/2020, Register 234; am 4/28/2024, Register 250; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

Chapter 59. Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.

5 AAC 59.122(a)(5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Eklutna River drainage;

(A) the waters from its mouth upstream to the Glenn Highway are open to sport fishing for salmon, other than king, coho, and sockeye salmon;

(B) from January 1 - September 30, the waters upstream of the Glenn Highway are open to sport fishing for salmon, other than king coho, and sockeye salmon;

5 AAC 59.122(a)(14)(A) is amended to read:

(A) the waters from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam are open to sport fishing for all finfish species, [EXCEPT THAT SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS OPEN ONLY] from January 1 - December 31 [JANUARY 1 - JULY 13];

5 AAC 59.122(a)(14)(E) is amended to read:

(E) from January 1 - July 13, after taking and retaining a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for any species that same day in

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waters open to king salmon fishing;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 3/2/2011, Register 197; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 60. Knik Arm Drainages Area.

5 AAC 60.105 is amended to read:

5 AAC 60.105. Description of the Knik Arm Drainages Area. The Knik Arm Drainages Area consists of all freshwater drainages bounded on the north by the southern boundary of the Willow Creek drainage [WILLOW CREEK], on the west by a line one-half mile east of the Susitna River, on the south by Cook Inlet and Knik Arm, and on the east by the Upper Susitna River drainage upstream of its confluence with the Oshetna River. (Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 60.120(3)(B) is amended to read:

(B) may be taken in stocked lakes and ponds from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of five fish, of which only one may be 20 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this subparagraph, "stocked lakes and ponds" include Anderson Lake, Barley Lake, Bear Paw Lake, Bench Lake, Beverly Lake, Big Beaver Lake, [BLAIR LAKE,] Brockner Lake, Bruce Lake, Buck Lake, Canoe Lake, Carpenter Lake, Coyote Lake, Dawn Lake, Diamond Lake, Echo Lake (Matanuska Lakes

Complex [(KEPLER/BRADLEY)], Farmer Lake, Finger Lake, Florence Lake, Golden Lake, Goober Lake, Homestead Lake, Honeybee Lake, Ida Lake, Irene Lake, Kepler/Bradley Lakes, **Kings Lake**, Klaire Lake, Kalmbach Lake, Knik Lake, Knob Lake, Lalen Lake, **Leech Lake**, Little Beaver Lake, Little Lonely Lake, Loberg (Junction) Lake, Long Lake (MP 86 Glenn Hwy), Loon Lake, Lorraine Lake, **Lucile Lake** [LUCILLE LAKE], Lynne Lake, Marion Lake, Matanuska Lake, Meirs Lake, Memory Lake, Morvro Lake, North Knob Lake, North Rolly Lake, Prator Lake, Ravine Lake, Reed Lake, Reflections Lake, Rhein Lake, Rocky Lake, Ruby Lake, Rush Lake, Seventeenmile Lake, Seymour Lake, Slipper (Eska) Lake, South Rolly Lake, **Summit Lake**, Tanaina Lake, Twin Island Lake, Vera Lake, Victor Lake, Visnaw Lake, Walby Lake, Weiner Lake, West Beaver Lake, [AND] Wolf Lake, **and Zero Lake**;

5 AAC 60.120(3) is amended by adding a new sub-paragraph to read:

(D) in flowing waters north and west of the Little Susitna River, April 15 - June 14, no retention;

5 AAC 60.120(7)(C) is amended to read:

(C) **all waters east of the Susitna River, west of the Little Susitna River and south of the Enstar Gas Pipeline right-of-way (Figure Eight area lakes), Anna Lake, Beaverhouse Lake, Cow Lake, East Papoose Lake, [ANDERSON LAKE, FIGURE EIGHT LAKE,] Flathorn Lake, Gerry Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Hourglass Lake, Loonsong Lake, Lynda Lake,** Memory Lake, all Nancy Lake drainage lakes except Nancy Lake, Prator Lake, **Sevenmile Lake**, Stephan Lake, **West Beaver Lake**,

West Horseshoe Lake, and **West Papoose Lake** with five lines through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately; [.]

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/28/2019, Register 230; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 60.122(a)(1) is amended to read:

(1) From June 15 - April 14, the flowing waters of the Palmer-Wasilla Zone are open to sport fishing, **except that northern pike and Alaska blackfish may be harvested from January 1 - December 31 using bow and arrow or spear**; the Palmer-Wasilla Zone consists of all flowing waters inside a zone bounded on the north **and west by the Little Susitna River** [BY WILLOW CREEK, ON THE WEST BY A LINE ONE-HALF MILE EAST OF THE SUSITNA RIVER], on the south by Cook Inlet and Knik Arm, and on the east by the Matanuska River and Moose Creek, but excluding **the Little Susitna River** [WILLOW CREEK], the Matanuska River, [AND] Moose Creek, **and Goose Creek**;

5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(A) is amended to read:

(A) **from** [THE WATERS FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT] its mouth, **including all waters within a** [UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED] one-quarter mile **radius of its**

confluence with Knik Arm at 61° 26.13' N. lat., 149° 46.14' W. long., upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, are open to sport fishing from June 15 – July 14 [EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JUNE 15 THROUGH JULY 14], and beginning the second Saturday in August through December 31 [ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS] from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed;

The introductory language of 5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(F) is amended to read:

(F) in Big Lake, Mirror Lake, and Flat Lake,

...

5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(F)(i) is amended to read:

(i) from November 1 - April 30, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used, except when fishing through the ice [,] two lines may be used; [,] if only one single hook is used on each line; a person may not place any substance in the water for the purpose of attracting fish by scent, including fish eggs in any form; natural or preserved animal, fish, shellfish, or insect parts; fish oil; natural or processed vegetable matter; and natural or synthetic chemicals.

5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(G) is amended to read:

(G) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR] Arctic char/Dolly Varden may not be retained or possessed [IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 20 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

5 AAC 60.122(a)(9)(L) is amended to read:

(L) [BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017,] a person may not sport fish from a boat that is powered by use of a motor [,] unless the motor is a four-stroke motor or a direct fuel injection two-stroke motor;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 11/12/2006, Register 180; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 6/17/2018, Register 226; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250.)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 61. Susitna River Drainage Area.

5 AAC 61.110(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit for chum, sockeye, and coho salmon is three fish, of which no more than two per day, [AND] two in possession may be coho salmon; if retention of coho salmon is allowed under this chapter, a coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person that originally hooked [HOOKING] it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish; the commissioner may [,] by emergency order [,] increase or decrease the bag and possession limit for coho salmon based on abundance indices;

(B) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 -

December 31; bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

(C) less than 16 inches in length may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of 10 fish;

5 AAC 61.110(a)(8)(C) is amended to read:

(C) Alexander Creek, Bulchitna Lake, Eightmile Lake, Fish Creek (lower Susitna River drainage), Fish Creek (Kroto Slough), Indian Creek, Witsoe Creek, and in Alexander Lake, Amber Lake, Crystal Lake, Donkey Lake, Fish Lakes, Hewitt Lake, Kroto Lakes, Lady Slipper Lake, Little Bulchitna Lake, Lockwood Lakes, Long Lake, Neil Lake, No Name (Cabin) Lake, Onestone Lakes, Parker Lake, Scotty Lake, Shell Lake, Shirley Lake, Sucker Lake, Trail Lake, Trapper Lake, Upper and Lower Vern Lakes [LAKES], Whitsol Lake, and Whiskey Lake, with five lines through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;

(Eff. 10/1/2006, Register 179; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 6/28/2019, Register 230; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 77. Personal Use Fishery.

5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)(B) is amended to read:

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that only one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, and no more than 10 king salmon less than 20 inches in length, may be retained per household; **notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.359(e)(2), king salmon less than 20 inches in length may be retained; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish** [UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH NOTWITHSTANDING 5 AAC 21.359(e)(2)];

5 AAC 77.540(h)(2) is amended to read:

(2) between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one mile downstream from Susitna Station downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located near the northern tip of Bell Island/Alexander Creek cutoff, **except the waters of Anderson Creek and between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 feet downstream and 50 feet upstream of the mouth of Anderson Creek are closed to dipnetting;**

(Eff. 6/7/95, Register 135; am 9/29/95, Register 135; am 5/31/96, Register 138; am 6/21/97, Register 142; am 5/8/98, Register 146; am 6/13/99, Register 150; am 6/22/2002, Register 162; am 6/11/2005, Register 174; am 6/4/2008, Register 186; am 6/12/2011, Register 198; am 5/18/2014, Register 210; am 6/8/2017, Register 222; am 9/19/2019, Register 231; am 6/21/2020, Register 234; am 6 / 8 / 2024, Register 250)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251