

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



Department of
Fish and Game

Israel Payton, Director

Division of Sport Fish

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

(Released: February 09, 2026 - Expires: December 31, 2026)

CONTACT: [Nick DeCovich](#)
Southcentral Regional Research Coordinator
(907) 746-6324

2026 Cook Inlet King Salmon Run Forecasts

The 2026 king salmon total run forecasts for the Deshka River, Kenai River early-run, Kenai River late-run and Anchor River have been completed.

King salmon total run forecast for:

Deshka River is 3,414 fish of all sizes, **below** the biological escapement goal of 9,000-18,000.

Kenai River early-run is 2,325 fish >75 cm, **below** the sustainable escapement goal of 2,800-5,600 >75 cm.

Kenai River late-run is 12,718 fish >75 cm, **below** the sustainable escapement goal of 13,500-27,000 >75 cm.

Anchor River is 2,747 fish of all sizes, **below** the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200-6,400.

King salmon are experiencing a period of poor productivity and escapement goals are not likely to be achieved in 2026. These forecasts will inform preseason management actions which will be implemented to conserve king salmon in Cook Inlet in compliance with various management plans.

#26-3989

Division of Sport Fish
Israel Payton, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement

(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **July 13, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Samantha Oslund](#)

Area Management Biologist
(907) 746-6300

Susitna and Little Susitna River Drainages Closed to King Salmon Fishing

(Palmer) – To protect returning king salmon and increase fishing opportunities in the future, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is implementing the following sport fishing regulations for Units 1-6 of the Susitna River drainage and for the Little Susitna River effective 6:00 a.m. Friday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2026:

- Sport fishing for king salmon is closed. King salmon may not be targeted or retained and incidentally caught king salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- Sport fishing gear is limited to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of one-half inch or less.

Sport fishing for other species will be allowed seven days per week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Bait may be used when sport fishing for burbot only. For a complete description of these waters, anglers should refer to the Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary.

King salmon stocks in Northern Cook Inlet, continue to experience a period of low productivity, and the forecast for the Deshka River is historically low. "Historic low escapements were experienced area wide in 2024-2025 and no king salmon goals were made in the Northern Cook Inlet management area in 2023-2025," stated Area Management Biologist Samantha Oslund. "ADF&G staff understand the frustrations and tremendous impact closing this fishery has on anglers, local businesses, and guides. However, there is every indication that the 2026 king salmon returns will not have a harvestable surplus".

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Samantha Oslund at [\(907\) 746-6300](tel:9077466300).

#26-3983

Division of Sport Fish
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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **July 13, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Samantha Oslund](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 746-6300

Susitna and Little Susitna River Drainages Closed to King Salmon Fishing

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King salmon stocks in Northern Cook Inlet, continue to experience a period of low productivity, and the forecast for the Deshka River is historically low. "Historic low escapements were experienced area wide in 2024-2025 and no king salmon goals were made in the Northern Cook Inlet management area in 2023-2025," stated Area Management Biologist Samantha Oslund. "ADF&G staff understand the frustrations and tremendous impact closing this fishery has on anglers, local businesses, and guides. However, there is every indication that the 2026 king salmon returns will not have a harvestable surplus".

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Samantha Oslund at [\(907\) 746-6300](tel:9077466300).

#26-3982

Doug Vincent-Lang
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Department of
Fish and Game

Israel Payton, Director

Division of Sport Fish

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

(Released: February 09, 2026 - Expires: December 31, 2026)

CONTACT: [Nick DeCovich](#)
Southcentral Regional Research Coordinator
(907) 746-6324

2026 Cook Inlet King Salmon Run Forecasts

The 2026 king salmon total run forecasts for the Deshka River, Kenai River early-run, Kenai River late-run and Anchor River have been completed.

King salmon total run forecast for:

Deshka River is 3,414 fish of all sizes, **below** the biological escapement goal of 9,000-18,000.

Kenai River early-run is 2,325 fish >75 cm, **below** the sustainable escapement goal of 2,800-5,600 >75 cm.

Kenai River late-run is 12,718 fish >75 cm, **below** the sustainable escapement goal of 13,500-27,000 >75 cm.

Anchor River is 2,747 fish of all sizes, **below** the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200-6,400.

King salmon are experiencing a period of poor productivity and escapement goals are not likely to be achieved in 2026. These forecasts will inform preseason management actions which will be implemented to conserve king salmon in Cook Inlet in compliance with various management plans.

#26-3989

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Israel Payton, Director



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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **September 15, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Brittany Blain-Roth](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 267-2186

King Salmon Restrictions in Gulf of Alaska Salt Waters

(Anchorage) - In order to reduce harvest of king salmon stocks that are experiencing a period of low productivity and provide a more comprehensive and precautionary management approach for king salmon sport fisheries in the northern Gulf of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is restricting king salmon sport fishing limits in Gulf of Alaska salt water fisheries. ADF&G is reducing the bag and possession limit for king salmon to one fish of any size from April 1 through September 15 in the salt waters of the Gulf of Alaska.

This restriction is for the salt waters of the Gulf of Alaska, including salt waters of the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak, and Prince William Sound and additional specific restrictions for Cook Inlet and Susitna waters were also issued. This emergency order aligns the king salmon bag and possession limit in all waters of the Gulf of Alaska but will not impact terminal harvest area's (THA's). ADF&G will continue to monitor king salmon returns, harvest, and additional emergency order restrictions may be issued if warranted.

King salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet and the Gulf of Alaska have failed to return at levels that meet established goals, triggering stock of concern designation for many of them. Additionally, the 2026 forecasts of king salmon stocks in Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet are below the lower end of established escapement goals, triggering restrictions to freshwater king salmon sport fisheries throughout the region. These restrictions to Gulf of Alaska king salmon bag and possession limits, which are in some cases in addition to management plans and actions taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, are warranted to reduce harvest of king salmon in these mixed stock fisheries.

For additional details about this restriction contact Jay Baumer at [\(907\) 267-2218](tel:9072672218).

#26-3986



Advisory Announcement
(Released: February 09, 2026 - Expires: August 15, 2026)

CONTACT: [Phill Stacey](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 267-2324

Kasilof River King Salmon Regulations for 2026

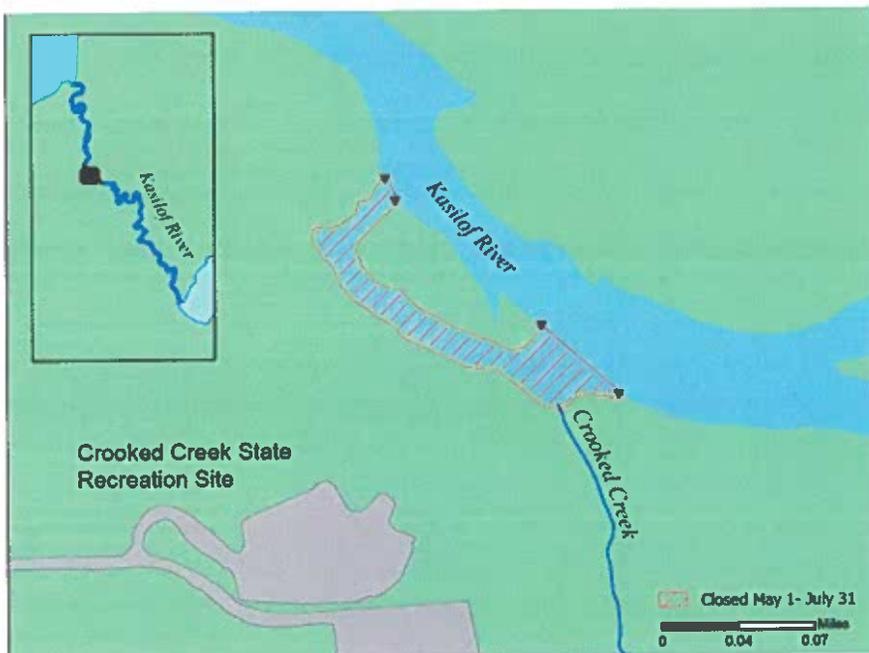
(Soldotna) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is implementing the following sport fishing regulation restrictions for king salmon in the Kasilof River drainage effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1, through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 15, 2026:

- Gear restrictions: From May 1 through August 15, from its mouth upstream to ADF&G markers at the outlet of Tustumena Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure is allowed. Single hook means a hook with only one point.
- Limits: From May 1 through July 31, the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one hatchery-produced fish. **Once an angler retains a hatchery-produced king salmon over 20 inches in length, they are not allowed to fish for any species that same day in the waters of the Kasilof River drainage downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge.** Hatchery-produced king salmon are recognizable by a healed adipose fin-clip scar. Naturally-produced king salmon of any size may not be possessed or retained and are distinguishable by an intact adipose fin, a small fleshy fin on the back of the fish just ahead of the tail. Naturally-produced king salmon that are caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. A harvested hatchery-produced fish 20 inches or greater in length applies toward the Cook Inlet regional king salmon annual limit of 5 fish. A harvest record is required.
- Closed waters: The portion of the Kasilof River directly downstream of the confluence of Crooked Creek, behind the mid channel island, is closed to all fishing from May 1 through July 31, to protect king salmon as they stage to enter Crooked Creek. (see map below).

ADF&G manages the Kasilof River king salmon sport fishery to achieve a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700–1,400 naturally-produced king salmon as monitored through a weir at an ADF&G facility located on Crooked Creek. From 2018–2025, restrictions were necessary to ensure the SEG for naturally-produced king salmon and the broodstock goal for hatchery king salmon were achieved. In 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025, the SEG and broodstock goals for naturally-produced king salmon were not met despite management action.

“These restrictions will improve the chances of achieving an escapement within the current SEG and provide for collection of king salmon broodstock, while still providing opportunity for anglers targeting Kasilof River hatchery-produced king salmon returning to Crooked Creek. Additionally, the removal of bait, the closure of the king salmon staging area below the mouth of Crooked Creek, and prohibiting fishing for any species downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge for the remainder of the day for an angler that harvests their limit of one hatchery-produced king salmon over 20 inches in length, will reduce the catch-and-release mortality of naturally-produced king salmon,” stated Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey at [\(907\) 267-2324](tel:9072672324) or [\(907\) 260-2920](tel:9072602920).



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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **June 24, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Phill Stacey](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 267-2324

Kasilof River Personal Use Gillnet Fishery Season Dates Reduced

(Soldotna) - To protect king salmon bound for the Kasilof River, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is implementing the following personal use fishing regulations for the Kasilof River set gillnet fishery for the 2026 season. The fishery will be open from 6:00 a.m. Saturday, June 20 through 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The daily fishing hours in the personal use set gillnet fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River will remain, 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

ADF&G manages Kasilof River early-run king salmon to achieve a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700-1,400 naturally-produced king salmon, counted at the Crooked Creek Facility weir. King salmon runs across Cook Inlet are at record low levels and are not showing signs of improvement. Without further reductions in potential harvest, it is more likely the escapement goal will not be achieved.

This gillnet fishery is managed in conjunction with the Upper Cook Inlet personal use fisheries on the Kenai, Kasilof, and Susitna Rivers, and Fish Creek and the total salmon household limit applies to a combination from all four fisheries. A 2026 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit and a resident sport fishing license are required and must be in your possession while participating in the fishery. Only Alaska residents may participate in this fishery.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey at [\(907\) 267-2324](tel:9072672324), or [\(907\) 260-2920](tel:9072602920).

#26-3980



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Advisory Announcement

(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **June 19, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Phill Stacey](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 267-2324

Kenai River Early-Run King Salmon Sport Fishery is Closed

(Soldotna) - In favor of protecting returning king salmon and ensuring sport fishing opportunities in the future, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is closing the early-run king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River drainage effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1 through June 19, 2026. Fishing for king salmon of any size, including catch-and-release, is closed in the Kenai River drainage. King salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Sport fishing for other species remains open. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Conservative management action is also being implemented for Kenai River late-run king salmon, please see separate advisory announcement.

The 2026 preseason forecast for Kenai River early-run king salmon is 2,325 large fish (fish greater than or equal to 34 inches in length). The total run forecast is less than the optimum escapement goal range of 3,900-6,600 fish. If realized, the 2026 run would rank as the 5th lowest run on record.

"In an effort to protect Kenai River early-run king salmon and remain in compliance with the regulatory management plan, the early-run king salmon sport fishery is closed until the early-run escapement goal is met," stated Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey at [\(907\) 267-2324](tel:9072672324), or [\(907\) 260-2920](tel:9072602920).



#26-3979



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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **August 15, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Phill Stacey](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 267-2324

Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Sport Fishery is Closed

(Soldotna) - In favor of protecting returning king salmon, ensuring sport fishing opportunities in the future, and consistent with the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is closing the late-run king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River drainage downstream of the outlet of Skilak Lake effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 20 through August 15, 2026. Fishing for king salmon of any size, including catch-and-release, is closed. King salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Sport fishing for other species remains open. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used.

Conservative management action is also being implemented for Kenai River early-run king salmon, please see separate advisory announcement.

The 2026 preseason forecast for Kenai River late-run king salmon is 12,718 large fish (fish greater than or equal to 34 inches in length). The total run forecast is less than the stock of concern recovery escapement goal range of 14,250-30,000 fish. The 2026 forecast, if realized, will be the 6th lowest on record.

"In an effort to protect Kenai River late-run king salmon and remain in compliance with the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan, the late-run king salmon fishery is closed to sport fishing" stated Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Phill Stacey at [\(907\) 267-2324](tel:9072672324) or [\(907\) 260-2920](tel:9072602920)



#26-3978

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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **December 31, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Samantha Oslund](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 746-6300

West Cook Inlet Fresh Waters Closed to King Salmon Fishing

(Palmer) – To protect returning king salmon and ensure sport fishing opportunities in the future, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is closing all drainages in the West Cook Inlet Area to sport fishing for king salmon for the duration of the king salmon season (May 1 – June 30). Anglers may not target king salmon (including catch and release) at anytime during 2026. Any king salmon caught must be released immediately, a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish.

"King salmon runs in Cook Inlet are anticipated to be poor in 2026," stated Area Management Biologist Samantha Oslund. "Several king salmon fisheries in this area of Cook Inlet have been closed in regulation since 2011. Conservative actions continue to be necessary to protect the small king salmon stocks of West Cook Inlet."

King salmon are experiencing a period of poor productivity and many escapement goals are not expected to be achieved within Cook Inlet during 2026. The Department is taking conservative actions in sport fisheries throughout the region, please see separate advisory announcements for king salmon regulations for the Northern Cook Inlet freshwaters, Cook Inlet salt waters, Kenai River, Anchor River and Deep Creek, Ninilchik and Kasilof Rivers.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologists Samantha Oslund in Palmer at [\(907\) 746-6300](tel:(907)746-6300) and Area Manager Mike Booz in Homer at [\(907\) 235-8191](tel:(907)235-8191).

#26-3977



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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **September 15, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Mike Booz](#)
Area Management Biologist
(907) 235-8191

King Salmon Restrictions in Cook Inlet Salt Waters

(Homer) - In order to reduce harvest of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks that are experiencing a period of low productivity and provide a more comprehensive and precautionary approach to king salmon sport fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is restricting king salmon sport fishing regulations in the Cook Inlet saltwater summer and winter fisheries.

- Upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.), king salmon fishing, including catch-and-release, will be **closed from May 1 through August 15, 2026**. King salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other fish species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. From April 1 through April 30 and August 16 through September 15 the bag and possession limit will be one king salmon, any size.
- Lower Cook Inlet salt waters (south of Bluff Point to the latitude of Cape Douglas and west of Gore Point), including Kachemak Bay, the daily bag and possession limits will be **one king salmon any size from April 1 through September 15**.
 - The Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon on the Homer Spit and the Seldovia slough and lagoon, the bag and possession limit will continue to be two king salmon any size. For a description of the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon and the Seldovia slough and lagoon waters, please see the Southcentral Sport Fishing Regulation Summary booklet.
- Winter fishery: In all salt waters of Cook Inlet, beginning September 16 through March 31, the bag and possession limit will be two king salmon, any size. Additional action later in the season may be required to keep the sport fishery within the guideline harvest level.

All other king salmon sport fishing regulations for Cook Inlet salt waters will remain in effect. Please review the Southcentral Sport Fishing Regulation Summary booklet for those regulations.

Based on the recent early-run king salmon escapement monitoring in the Kenai, Anchor, and Deshka Rivers, this year's king salmon runs are forecasted to be below the lower end of their escapement goals, which has triggered preseason closures for the inriver sport fisheries in these streams and also triggers the closure of Upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point from May 1 to July 15 as outlined in the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan. The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a recovery plan (Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan) to rebuild Kenai River late-run king salmon, which includes a closure to sport fishing for king salmon north of Bluff Point from June 20 to August 15. This restriction will be in place annually until the Kenai River late-run king salmon meets the criteria to be removed from stock of concern status outlined in the management plan.

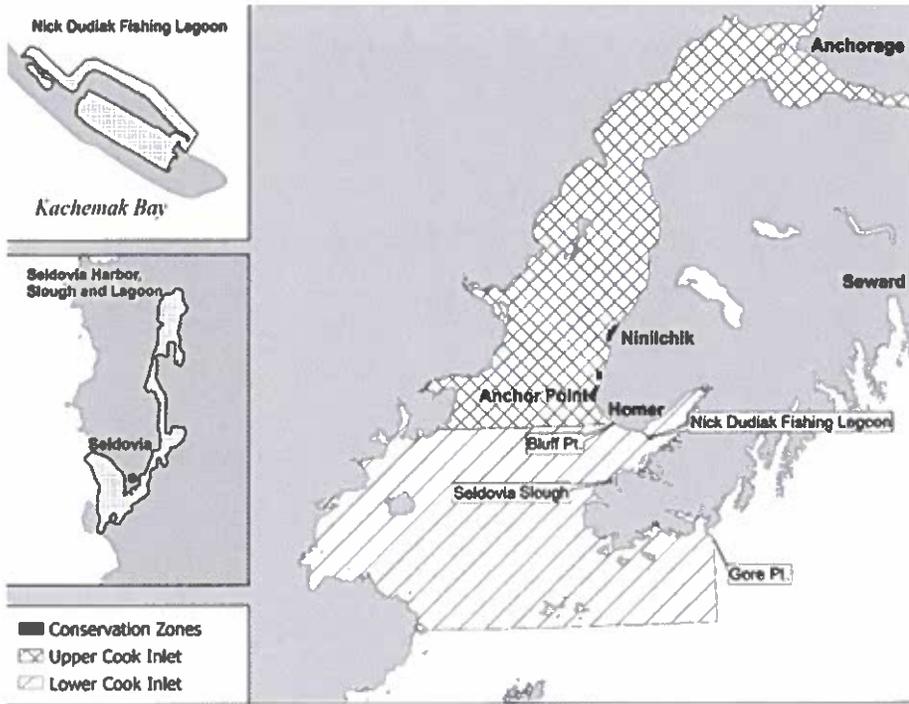
This emergency order action in Cook Inlet salt waters is in combination with freshwater sport fishery restrictions throughout Cook Inlet. These changes do not affect fishing for other species, including halibut.

For more information, please contact Area Management Biologist Mike Booz, or Assistant Area Management Biologist Holly Dickson at [907-235-8191](tel:907-235-8191).

Upper Cook Inlet (North of Bluff Point): closed to sport fishing for king salmon May 1-August 15, bag and possession limit of one king salmon April 1-30 and August 16-September 15.

Lower Cook Inlet(South of Bluff Point): bag and possession limit of one king salmon April 1 - September 15.

Conservation zones: closed to all sport fishing from a boat between April 1 through July 15.



#26-3976

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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Advisory Announcement

(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **July 31, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Mike Booz](#)

Area Management Biologist
(907) 235-8191

Anchor River and Deep Creek Closed to All Sport Fishing Through July 15 and Gear Restricted July 16 Through July 31

(Homer) – Consistent with the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery management plan, the Anchor River and Deep Creek drainages will remain closed to all sport fishing through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2026. Gear is also restricted to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, and Deep Creek from July 16 through July 31 due to increasingly later king salmon run timing.

The 2026 preseason king salmon forecast in the Anchor River is for a run of 2,743 fish which is below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal range (SEG) of (3,200-6,400). King salmon escapement monitoring in the Anchor River will start in mid-May and if the run is sufficient to achieve the SEG, these sport fisheries may reopen later in the season.

Anchor River king salmon escapements in the last three years averaged approximately 3,200 fish and was below the SEG in 2 of the last 5 years. Deep Creek king salmon escapement has not been monitored since 2020 and will not be assessed in 2026, but the trends in annual run sizes are similar to the Anchor River. In addition to recent poor escapements, king salmon run timing has been later in all lower Kenai Peninsula streams. In the most recent five years, an average of 20% of the Anchor River run has arrived to the lower river after July 15.

“Even though the Anchor River king salmon stock has met its SEG the last two consecutive years, the preseason forecast is for a small run,” stated Area Management Biologist Mike Booz. “Starting the season with these fisheries closed and restricting gear later in July is a precautionary approach that will help get as many king salmon as possible into the escapement.”

King salmon are experiencing a period of poor productivity and many escapement goals are not expected to be achieved within Cook Inlet during 2026. The Department is taking conservative actions in sport fisheries throughout the region. Please see separate advisory announcements for king salmon regulations for the Ninilchik River, Kenai River, Kasilof River, Northern Cook Inlet Streams and Cook Inlet salt waters.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Mike Booz or Assistant Area Management Biologist Holly Dickson at [\(907\) 235-8191](tel:9072358191).

#26-3975

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Advisory Announcement

(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **July 31, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Mike Booz](#)

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Reduced Season and Bag Limit for Hatchery King Salmon, and Gear Restrictions in the Ninilchik River

(Homer) – Consistent with the *Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery management plan*, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is restricting the days open to sport fishing for king salmon on the Ninilchik River, reducing the daily bag limit for hatchery king salmon, and restricting gear from May 23 through July 31.

Season dates: Fishing for hatchery king salmon will begin on Memorial Day weekend (May 23 – May 25, 2026) and will only be open on the following weekends in May and June: May 30 – June 1, June 6 – 8, June 20 – 22, and June 27 – 29. The youth only fishery will be open to anglers 15 year of age or younger on June 3 from 6am to 10pm. Sport fishing for all other species will also be open during these dates and from July 16 through October 31.

Limits: Hatchery king salmon 20" or greater in length daily bag and possession limit is 1 fish and the daily bag and possession limit of hatchery king salmon less than 20" in length is 10. Anglers that harvest a hatchery king salmon 20" or greater in length may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of the day. During the youth-only fishery on June 3, the daily bag and possession limit is 1 hatchery king salmon of any size. After harvesting a hatchery king salmon of any size in the youth fishery, the angler may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of the day. If you harvest a hatchery king salmon 20" or greater in length, you must immediately record the harvest, and it is included in the Cook Inlet annual limit of 5 fish. Naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained, may not be removed from the water, and must be released immediately.

Gear restriction: Gear is restricted to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure from May 23 through July 31 when fishing for any species.

The Ninilchik River sustainable escapement goal (SEG) was updated in 2023 to 900–1,600 naturally produced king salmon, but the SEG was not achieved in 2022, 2023, or 2024. Reducing the season and bag limit and removing the use of bait will help to reduce the catch-and-release mortality of naturally-produced king salmon when fishing for hatchery king salmon.

"Since we've missed the Ninilchik River king salmon escapement goal in three of the last four years, we are taking a more precautionary approach with the start of this season," stated Area Management Biologist Mike Booz. "We will be monitoring this year's run very closely and will further adjust the regulations inseason to provide more sport fishing opportunity if the escapement goal and broodstock needs will be met."

King salmon are experiencing a period of poor productivity and many escapement goals are not expected to be achieved within Cook Inlet during 2026. The Department is taking conservative actions in sport fisheries throughout the region, please see separate advisory announcements for king salmon regulations for the Anchor River and Deep Creek, Kenai River, Kasilof River, Northern Cook Inlet Streams and Cook Inlet saltwater.

For additional information, please contact Area Management Biologist Mike Booz or Assistant Area Management Biologist Holly Dickson at [\(907\) 235-8191](tel:9072358191).

#26-3974

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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **July 13, 2026**)

CONTACT: [Brittany Blain-Roth](#)
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(907) 267-2186

Eagle River Drainage Closed to King Salmon Fishing

(Anchorage) – In favor of protecting returning king salmon and increase fishing opportunities in the future, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is closing sport fishing for king salmon in Eagle River effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2026. In addition, sport fishing gear is limited to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between the point and shank of the hook that is half-inch or less when fishing in the waters of Eagle River between the Route Bravo Bridge upstream to the ADF&G regulation marker located at mile 7.4 of the Eagle River Road. Single hook is defined as a hook with only one point. Sport fishing for other species will still be allowed. King salmon may not be targeted and those caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

"King salmon stocks in Cook Inlet streams continue to experience a period of low productivity and Eagle River is no exception. A section of the river has historically been open to fishing for king salmon for four 3-day weekends but continued low returns has led to the need for closing this king salmon fishing opportunity for a second year," stated Area Management Biologist Brittany Blain-Roth.

For a complete description of these waters, anglers should refer to the 2026 Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations booklet, available in April 2026.

For more information, please contact Area Management Biologist Brittany Blain-Roth at [907-267-2186](tel:907-267-2186) or Assistant Area Management Biologist Donald Arthur at [907-267-2225](tel:907-267-2225).

#26-3973

Division of Sport Fish
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Advisory Announcement
(Released: **February 09, 2026** - Expires: **July 31, 2026**)

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Campbell Creek Gear Restrictions and Catch-and-Release Only for Youth-Only King Salmon Fishery

(Anchorage) –In favor of protecting returning king salmon and future fishing opportunities, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is prohibiting the retention of king salmon (catch-and-release only) in the Campbell Creek youth-only fishery that takes place June 27 and 28, 2026 from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. If a king salmon is caught during the youth-only fishery, it may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Additionally, gear will be restricted to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in Campbell Creek from June 15 – July 31, 2026.

"Due to continued low productivity and poor king salmon runs in Cook Inlet streams we will again take a precautionary approach. This year the youth-only king salmon fishery on Campbell Creek will again be catch and release only due to continued low returns and the need to protect these king salmon," stated Area Management Biologist Brittany Blain-Roth. "In addition, for added protection bait is not allowed and only single hooks may be used until August 1 to protect king salmon that are still present and actively spawning in the creek when the coho salmon fishery opens on July 14."

As a reminder, youth anglers still have this section of the creek to themselves to sport fish during this one weekend per year opportunity. Adults may assist but may not be fishing in the youth-only area which is from the Dimond Boulevard Bridge to the Old Seward Highway. Please see the Southcentral Regulation Summary booklet for more details.

For more information, please contact Area Management Biologist Brittany Blain-Roth at [907-267-2186](tel:907-267-2186) or Assistant Area Management Biologist Donald Arthur at [907-267-2225](tel:907-267-2225).

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