



ELIZABETH EARL | PENINSULA CLARION

In this July 2016 photo, a fishing guide pilots a boat up the Kenai River near Soldotna.

# Fish and Game imposes king salmon fishing restrictions

By ELIZABETH EARL  
PENINSULA CLARION

**KENAI** — Starting Wednesday, anglers on the Kenai River can't keep king salmon and anglers on the Kasilof River can only keep hatchery fish.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued a set of emergency orders Monday with restrictions for king salmon fishing on the two rivers based on the low numbers of returning fish so far. No kings of any size can be kept between Wednesday and June 30 on the Kenai River between the mouth and Skilak Lake, and from July 1-15, the lower river will open to harvest but the segment between a marker 300 feet downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek and Skilak Lake will remain closed to harvest.

Anglers can fish with

one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure but kings cannot be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

On the Kasilof, anglers cannot keep a naturally produced king, which is a fish with an intact adipose fin. Hatchery fish, which have clipped adipose fins, can only be kept if they are shorter than 20 inches long. Gear is limited to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure.

One of the reasons for the restriction on wild kings is because of the restrictions on the Keai River, according to the emergency order.

"(The Kenai River restrictions) will likely result in an increase in fishing effort and catch of king salmon on the Kasilof River," the emergency order states.

The natural run on the Kasilof is not tracked by

weir or sonar, but Fish and Game tracks the hatchery return at a weir on Crooked Creek. As the run progresses, the managers will take additional actions if necessary, according to the release.

The Kenai River restrictions are meant to help push the early king run numbers toward the escapement goal of 3,900-6,600 large fish, or fish greater than 75 centimeters long (about 29.5 inches) from mid-eye to tail fork. As of Sunday, 1,609 early-run kings had passed the sonar, less than half of the 3,726 total that had passed the sonar on the same date in 2017. The current inseason run projection is estimating 4,700 large kings to return to the river, based on an estimate that the run is three days late, according to the emergency order.

"Kenai River king

salmon and other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since 2009, a below average run strength," said Cook Inlet Management Coordinator Matt Miller in the emergency order. "As of June 10, 2018, an estimated 1,609 large king salmon have past the River Mile 13.7 king salmon sonar. Therefore, based upon the current inseason in-river run projections, it is warranted to reduce king salmon mortality until run projections solidify."

All of the major king salmon fishing rivers on the western side of the Kenai Peninsula are now under king salmon restrictions. The Kasilof River is the only river where kings can be kept, and they have to be hatchery kings less than 20 inches long.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**  
— Wire Report —

**Company applies to shut down Drift River oil terminal**

**KENAI** — The owner of the Drift River Terminal has applied to permanently shut down the facility.

Kenai radio station KSRM reports Cook Inlet Pipeline Co., a subsidiary of Harvest Pipeline, submitted an application to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to discontinue use of the terminal.

The company also applied to discontinue the terminal's tank farm, the Christy Lee loading platform, and the portion of pipeline that extends from the Drift River Terminal to the Christy Lee Platform.



Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities - Southcoast Region

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO BEGIN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Juneau Riverside / Stephen Richards Congestion Mitigation Project  
SFHWY-00081 / 0003207

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposes a project to reduce traffic congestion at the intersection of Stephen Richards and Riverside Drive in Mendenhall Valley. Traffic congestion at the four-way stop intersection creates delays and emissions in an air quality maintenance area – the Mendenhall Valley.

DOT&PF is evaluating intersection concepts to reduce congestion and limit resultant traffic delays and emissions.

Design concepts for the proposed project may include a roundabout or enhanced traffic signals; although, other intersection layouts may develop through agency comments, stakeholder feedback, and public input.

Public meetings to engage the community, agencies, and stakeholders will be held later this summer.

For more project information, visit our webpage at

[http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/jnu\\_riverside\\_stephen\\_richards/index.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/jnu_riverside_stephen_richards/index.shtml)

**The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.**

Development of this proposed project would follow a process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on project location and scope of work, the environmental document is anticipated to be a categorical exclusion (CE). Possible affected resources include wetlands, waters of the U.S., eagles, and cultural or historic properties.

The proposed project would comply with all applicable authorities including:

- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
- Clean Air Act
- EO-13175 (Consult & Coordinate w/ Ind Tribal Gov)
- Clean Water Act
- EO-11593 (Protect & Enhance Cultural Env.)
- EO-13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)
- EO-11990 (Protect Wetlands)
- EO-13112 (Invasive Species)
- EO-11988 (Manage Floodplains)
- EO-12898 (Env. Justice)

For more information please contact:

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It is the policy of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) that no person shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of any and all programs or activities we provide based on race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin, regardless of the funding source including Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration and State of Alaska Funds. The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you or someone you represent requires special accommodations in order to respond to this public notice, please call or email the project coordinator listed above or call Alaska Relay at 711 or call

- (800) 770-8973 for TTY
- (800) 770-8255 for voice
- (800) 770-3919 for ASCL
- (866) 355-6198 for STS

Ask the communications assistant to call the project coordinator listed above so arrangements can be made to assist you.

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