GENERAL REGULATIONS - COOK INLET & KACHEMAK BAY

Inclusive waters: Salt waters of Cook Inlet west of Gore Point and north of Cape Douglas, including Kachemak Bay and the Barren Islands.

Fishing is open year-round for all species unless otherwise noted below or in special regulations.

Stay legal - before you cast, check emergency orders at www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR.

KING SALMON

EO **In 2026, king salmon were restricted in the Cook Inlet salt waters. See the emergency order for more info.**

- **Summer Fisheries - April 1-August 31:**
  - **20 inches or longer:**
    - There is a combined annual limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer from the waters of the following areas: Cook Inlet Salt Waters, West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, and Kenai Peninsula.
    - If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 4 for recording instructions.
    - A king salmon 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  - **North of the latitude of Bluff Point (59°40'N):**
    - See Special King Salmon Management regulations on page 69.

    EO **April 1-April 30 and August 16-August 31:**
    - Open to king salmon fishing.
    - 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.

    EO **May 1-August 15: Closed to king salmon fishing.**
  - **South of the latitude of Bluff Point (59°40'N)**

    EO **April 1-August 31: 1 per day, 1 in possession,** no size limit.
- **Winter Fishery - September 1-March 31:**
  - **All Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay salt waters:**

    EO **September 1-September 15: 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.**
    - **September 16-March 31:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
    - No annual limit in effect; recording of king salmon harvest is not required during this time, but a king stamp is required.

CHUM, COHO, PINK, & SOCKEYE SALMON (COMBO)

- 6 per day, 6 in possession, only 3 per day, 3 in possession may be coho salmon.
- Pink salmon taken in a sport fishery may be used as bait, but are part of your bag limit.

RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT

- Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately.

DOLLY VARDEN

- 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

SPINY DOGFISH

- 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

LINGCOD

- **July 1-December 31:** 1 per day, 2 in possession, must be at least 35 inches long with head attached or 28 inches from tip of tail to front of dorsal fin with head removed.

ROCKFISH

EO **In 2026, by emergency order the following apply:**
- **Pelagic: 2 per day, 4 in possession.**
- **Nonpelagic:**
  - 1 per day, 2 in possession.
  - **April 1-June 30: No retention of yelloweye rockfish.** See the chart on page 90.

Anglers must carry a deepwater release device onboard their vessel. For information on deepwater release devices, see page 91.

Examples of Rockfish Release Devices

PACIFIC HALIBUT

Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty. See page 7.

- **February 1-December 31:** Open to halibut fishing.
- **Unguided anglers:** 2 per day, 4 in possession.
- **Consult federal regulations for the following:**
  - Bag, possession and size limits, and other regulations for guided (charter) anglers.
- **Filleting requirements for fish cleaned at sea:**
  - No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure crafts used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached.

SHARKS (EXCEPT SPINY DOGFISH)

- 1 per day, 1 in possession. There is an annual limit of 2 sharks. See page 4 for harvest recording instructions.

OTHER FINFISH

- No limit.

SHELLFISH

- See pages 81-84.

METHODS AND MEANS - COOK INLET & KACHEMAK BAY

UNDERWATER SPEAR:

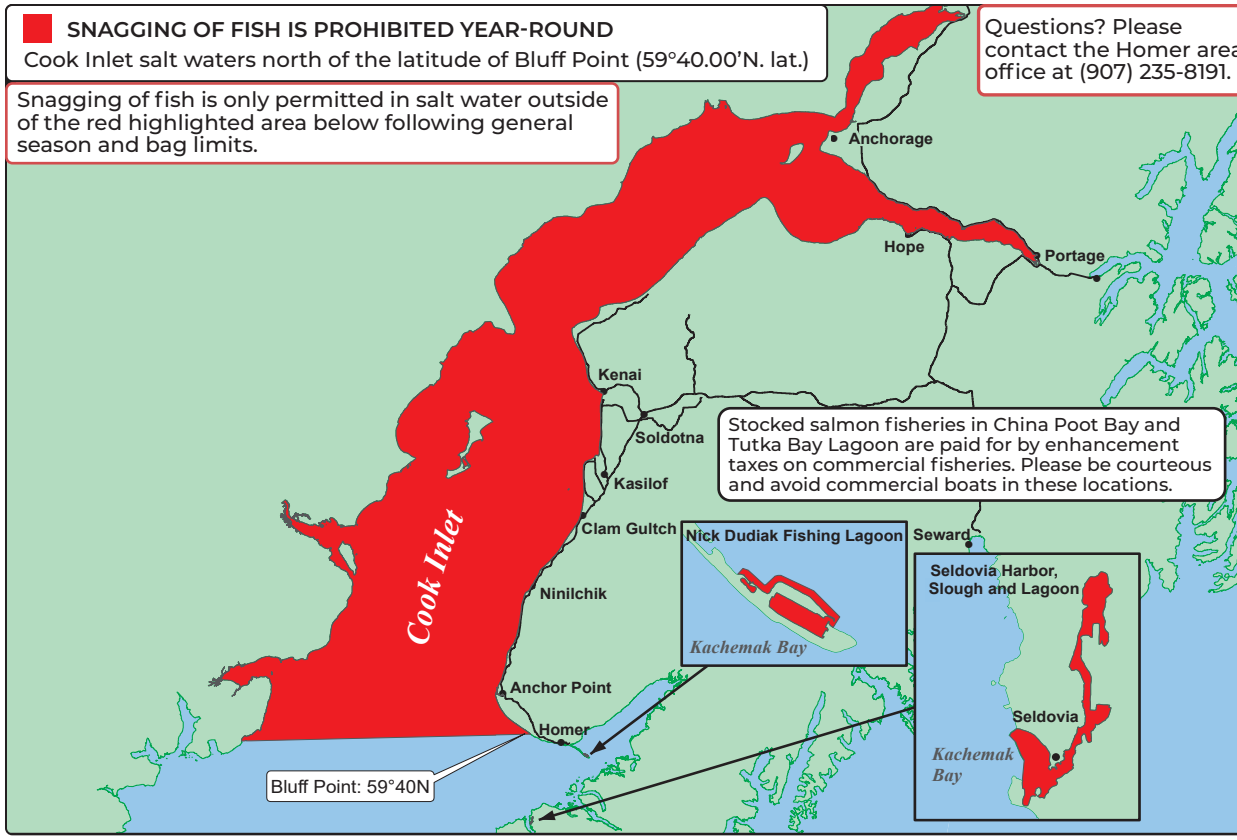
- In saltwater, a person may use a spear or speargun (not tipped with an explosive charge) to take fish while completely submerged or swimming on the surface, subject to applicable seasons, bag limits, and possession limits.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR HERRING & HOOLIGAN:

- In saltwater, herring and smelt may be taken using up to 15 or less unbaited, single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

GAFFS:

- A gaff may not be used to puncture any fish intended or required to be released.



Methods and Means continued...

SNAGGING:

- **Snagging is prohibited. You may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish:**
  - Year-round in Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point.
  - Year-round in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (see special regulations below).
  - **January 1-June 23:** In the Seldovia Harbor, Slough, and Lagoon.
- **Snagging is Allowed:**
  - Year-round in Cook Inlet south of the latitude of Bluff Point, except for the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon.
  - **June 24-December 31:** In the Seldovia Harbor, Slough, and Lagoon.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS - COOK INLET & KACHEMAK BAY

FISH CREEK:

- See *Fish Creek Drainage* page 36.

NICK DUDIAK FISHING LAGOON AREA (THE FISHING HOLE) - Along the east side of the Homer Spit, from the Homer City Dock near the entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor to ADF&G markers about 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon area (including the Homer Boat Harbor and the fishing lagoon) to a distance of 300 feet from shore:

- **King salmon:**
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
  - **April 1-August 31:** King salmon 20 inches or longer must be recorded. See page 4.

Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon continued...

- **Chum, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon (combo):**
  - 6 per day, 6 in possession.
- **Snagging is only allowed by emergency order.**
- Weights, bobbers, or any flotation device (including pieces of foam or marshmallows) following a hook or hooks may not be used when these waters are closed to snagging.

NICK DUDIAK LAGOON YOUTH-ONLY KING AND COHO SALMON FISHERIES:

- Youth-Only Fishery area is only for anglers 15 years of age or younger and is marked with signs.
- The Youth-Only Fishery is on the first Saturday in June and August. **In 2026, this will be June 6 and August 1.**

HOMER BARGE BASIN - located on the Homer Spit: Closed year-round to all sport fishing.

SELDOVIA HARBOR, SLOUGH, AND LAGOON:

- **January 1-June 23: Closed to snagging and spear fishing.**
- **King salmon:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
- **April 1-August 31:** King salmon 20 inches or longer must be recorded. See page 4.
- **Other species:** See page 67.

TUTKA BAY LAGOON:

- **The marine waters of Tutka Bay Lagoon within 100 yards of the Tutka Bay Lagoon hatchery net pens: Closed year-round to all sport fishing.**

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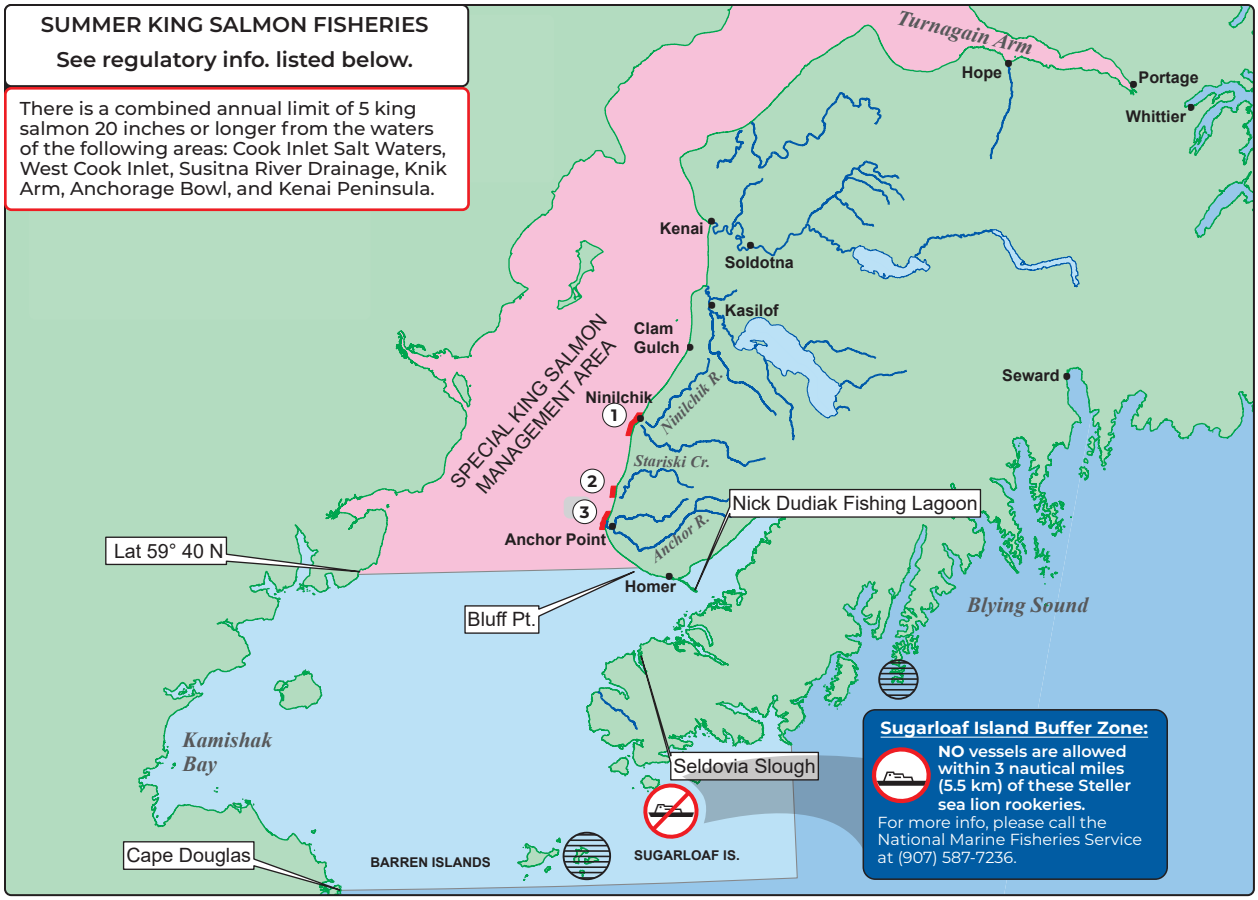

REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL KING SALMON MANAGEMENT AREA (APRIL 1-AUGUST 31)

Inclusive waters: All salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point.

- **April 1-August 31:** The following regulations apply:
  - **Anglers may not continue fishing for king salmon within the Special King Salmon Management Area after harvesting a king salmon 20 inches or longer.**
  - **Guides may not sport fish while a client is present or within the guide's control or responsibility**, unless the guide is providing assistance to a client with a disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - **April 1-July 15:** The following saltwater areas (1), (2), and (3) surrounding stream mouths are Conservation Zones and are **closed to all sport fishing from a boat.** Sport fishing for species other than king salmon is allowed from shore except within 200 yards of stream mouths.

    (1) About 1 mile north of the Ninilchik River (60°03.99'N) to ADF&G markers 2 miles south of Deep Creek (60°00.68'N), and within 1 mile of shore.

    (2) From the latitude of an ADF&G marker located 1 mile north of Stariski Creek (59°54.37'N) to the latitude of an ADF&G marker located 1 mile south of Stariski Creek (59°52.98'N), and within 1 mile of shore; and

    (3) From the latitude of ADF&G markers 2 miles north of the Anchor River (59°48.92'N) to the latitude of the Anchor Point Light (59°46.14'N) about 1 3/4 miles south of the Anchor River, and within 1 mile of shore.

SUMMER KING SALMON FISHERY - April 1-August 31:

EO **King salmon:** In 2026, an emergency order was issued for king salmon in Cook Inlet salt waters.

- **North of Bluff Point 59°40'N to 60°03.99'N (Special King Salmon Management Area):**
  - See page 67 for bag limits. Note: See special regulations above.
- **South of Bluff Point 59°40'N to 60°03.99'N:**
  - See page 67 for bag limits.

WINTER KING SALMON FISHERY - September 1-March 31:

- **Inclusive waters:** ALL of Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay salt waters.
- **King salmon:**

EO **September 1-September 15: 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.**

- **September 16-March 31:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
- No annual limit in effect; recording of king salmon harvest is not required during this time, but a king stamp is required.

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