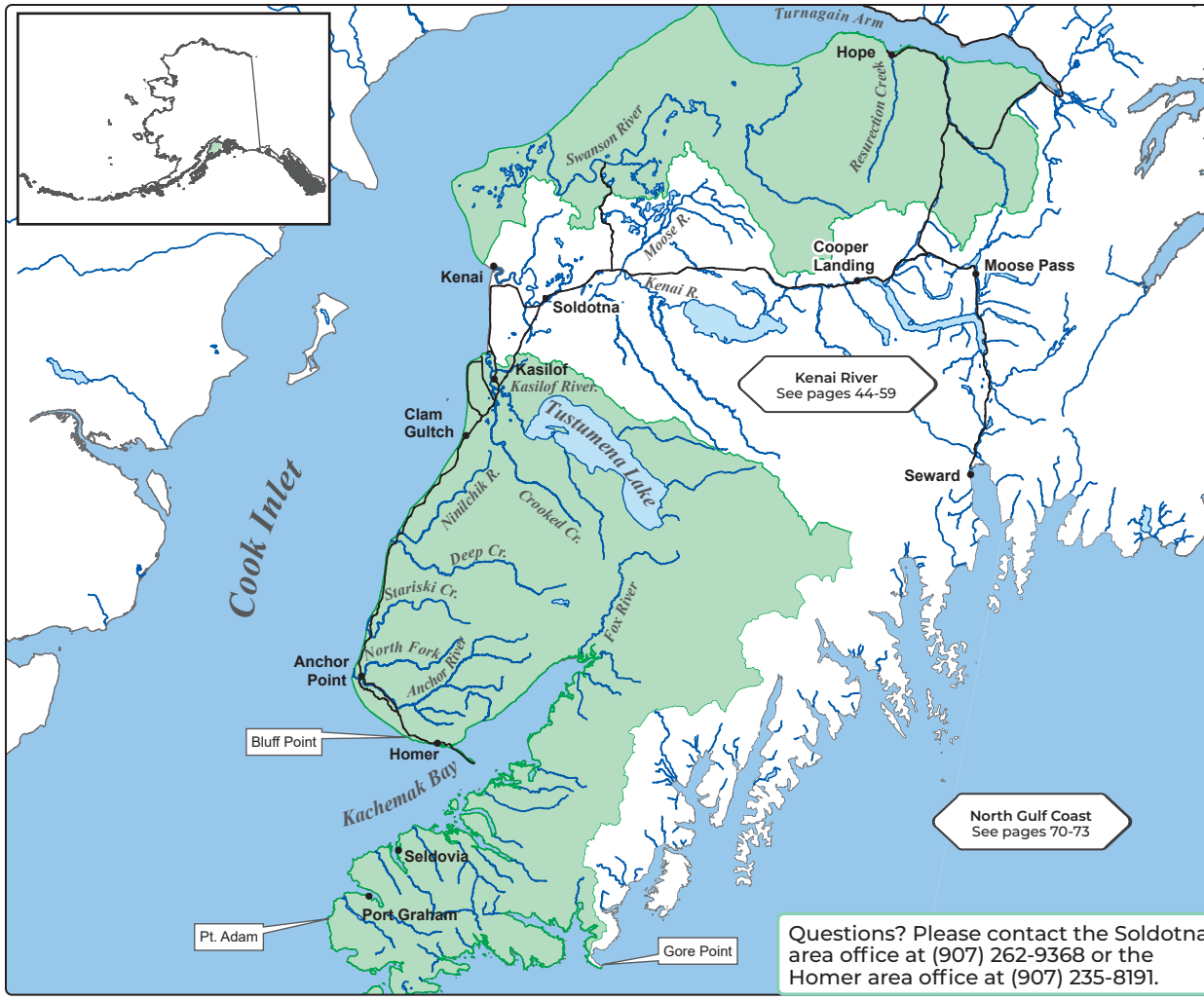


Questions? Please contact the Soldotna area office at (907) 262-9368 or the Homer area office at (907) 235-8191.

GENERAL REGULATIONS - KENAI PENINSULA

Inclusive waters: All fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula, including Upper and Lower Summit lakes (excluding the Kenai River drainage and North Gulf Coast fresh water drainages).

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 King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.

- **The fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula are closed to king salmon fishing, except for the Kasilof River and Ninilchik River. See king salmon emergency orders.**
- **In Kenai Peninsula fresh waters open to king salmon fishing:**
  - 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, Kenai River, and Kenai Peninsula.

King salmon continued...

  - A king salmon 20 inches or longer that is removed from the 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.
  - If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 4 for recording instructions.
- **In stocked lakes:** 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with other salmon. See pages 86-87.

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

- **In unstocked lakes and all flowing waters:**
  - **16 inches or longer:** 3 per day, 3 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be coho (silver) salmon.
    - A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a coho salmon 16 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
  - **Less than 16 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- **In stocked lakes:**
  - 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with king salmon. See pages 86-87.

...continued

RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT (COMBO)

- **In flowing waters:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
- **In lakes:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
- **20 inches or longer:**
  - There is a total annual limit of 2 rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer taken north of the latitude of Point Adam, from the waters of the following areas: West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Lake drainages, Kenai River tributaries, and Kenai Peninsula.
  - If you retain a rainbow/steelhead trout 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 4 for recording instructions.

ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN (COMBO)

- **In flowing waters:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
- **In lakes:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

ARCTIC GRAYLING

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

LAKE TROUT

- **In lakes and all flowing waters:**
  - **20 inches or longer:** 2 per day, 2 in possession.
  - **Less than 20 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.

BURBOT

- **In lakes and all flowing waters:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

OTHER FINFISH

- **In lakes and all flowing waters:** No limit.

NORTHERN PIKE - INVASIVE SPECIES

- No limit
- The Kenai Peninsula is no longer known to contain any northern pike populations. Northern pike are not native to the Southcentral area.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. If you catch a northern pike anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula, please keep it and bring it to the nearest ADF&G office.

Weston Williams, rainbow trout, Russian River

METHODS AND MEANS - KENAI PENINSULA

BAIT RESTRICTIONS:

- **In flowing waters of the Kenai Peninsula:**
  - **September 16-December 31:** Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies are allowed.
- **In lakes and during certain times on select flowing waters:**
  - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round. See special regulations for more info.

USE OF BEADS:

- **In all flowing waters:**
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free sliding on the line or leader.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS - KENAI PENINSULA

ANCHOR RIVER DRAINAGE:

Anchor River from its mouth upstream approximately 2 miles to ADF&G markers approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge:		
January 1-July 15	Closed to all sport fishing. EO King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.	
July 16-July 31	Closed to the retention of king salmon. Open to all other species.	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure is allowed.
Aug. 1-Aug. 31	Closed to the retention of king salmon. Open to all other species.	Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
Sept. 1-Oct. 31	Closed to the retention of king salmon. Open to all other species.	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure is allowed.
Nov. 1, 2026, through open date in May 2027	Closed to all sport fishing.	

EO **January 1-July 15: Closed to all sport fishing,** except **Bridge Creek reservoir** which is open year-round to sport fishing.

EO **King salmon: King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.**

- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:**
  - Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **Other species:**
  - See general regulations on pages 60-61.

Anchor River continued...

- **From its mouth upstream approximately 2 miles to ADF&G markers:**
  - See table on page 61 for open dates and gear allowed in this area.
- **Upstream from the ADF&G markers approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge:**
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
  - **November 1-July 31: Closed to all sport fishing in all flowing waters.**
  - **August 1-October 31:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure or fly is allowed.

BRIDGE CREEK RESERVOIR:

- Open year-round to sport fishing. See general regulations on pages 60-61.

BENCH CREEK DRAINAGE - including Bench Lake:

- **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than king salmon.
- **May 1-June 10: Closed to all sport fishing.**

BISHOP CREEK DRAINAGE - including Daniels Creek:

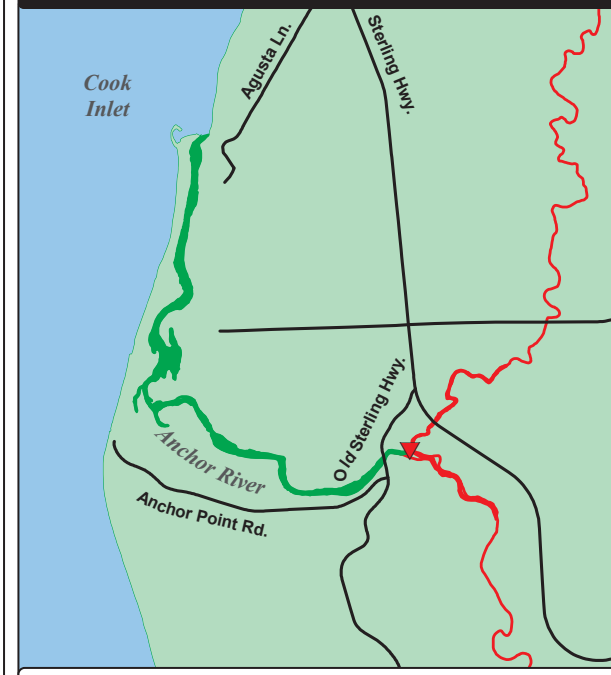
- **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
- **May 1-June 10: Closed to all sport fishing.**

CROOKED CREEK AND COAL CREEK:

- **January 1-July 31: Closed to all sport fishing.**
- **August 1-December 31:** Open to sport fishing for species other than king salmon.
- **September 1-December 31:** Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:** Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Henry Earhart, rainbow trout, Johnson Lake

ANCHOR RIVER



ADF&G Marker

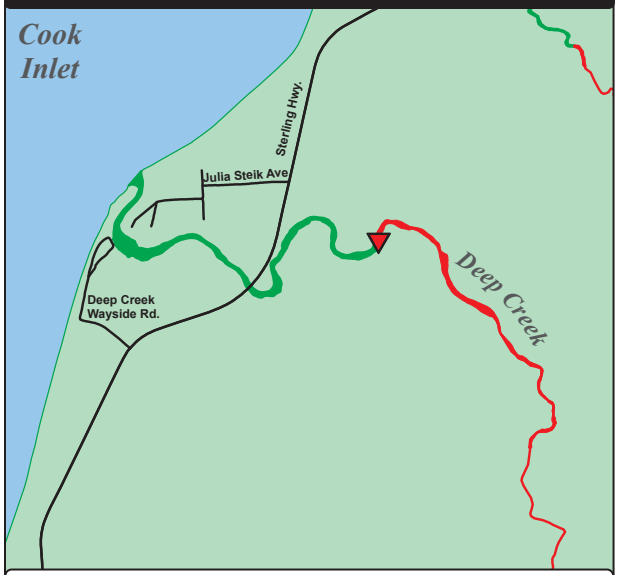
Closed year-round to all salmon fishing, open seasonally to other species

Open seasonally to salmon fishing

...continued

Cameron & Bridget Montantes, sockeye salmon, Seward

DEEP CREEK



ADF&G Marker

Closed year-round to all salmon fishing, open seasonally to other species

Open seasonally to salmon fishing

DEEP CREEK DRAINAGE:

EO **January 1-July 15: Closed to all sport fishing.**

EO **King salmon: King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.**

- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:** Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **Other species:** See general regulations on pages 60-61.
- **From its mouth upstream approximately 2 miles to ADF&G markers:**
  - See the table on the right for open dates and gear allowed in this area.
- **Upstream from ADF&G markers:**
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
  - **November 1-July 31: Closed to all sport fishing in flowing waters.**
  - **August 1-October 31:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure or fly is allowed.

ENGLISH BAY RIVER DRAINAGE:

- **From its mouth (including the lagoon) upstream to the outlet of Lower English Bay Lake:**
  - **June 1-July 31:** Fly-fishing-only waters. See page 6 for a description of acceptable gear.
- **English Bay River and all lakes and ponds of English Bay River drainage upstream from the outlet of Lower English Bay Lake:**
  - Open year-round to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**

Deep Creek from its mouth upstream approximately 2 miles to ADF&G markers:		
January 1-July 15	Closed to all sport fishing. EO King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.	
July 16-July 31	Closed to the retention of king salmon. Open to all other species.	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure is allowed.
Aug. 1-Aug. 31	Closed to the retention of king salmon. Open to all other species.	Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
Sept. 1-Oct. 31	Closed to the retention of king salmon. Open to all other species.	Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure is allowed.
Nov. 1, 2026, through open date in May 2027	Closed to all sport fishing.	

...continued

Paul Gaines, lingcod, Prince William Sound

KASILOF RIVER - excluding Crooked Creek, Coal Creek, and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

EO **King salmon: In 2026, from May 1-June 30, only 1 hatchery-produced king salmon, 20 inches or longer. King salmon fishing is closed outside of these dates by EO. See the EO for more info.**

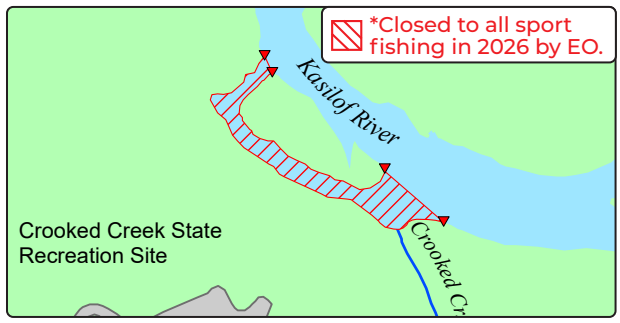
- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:** Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **From its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge:**
  - **January 1-July 31: Sport fishing from a motorized boat is prohibited.** Motors 10 hp or less may be used only downstream of ADF&G markers located at approximately river mile 4, and only after fishing from the boat has stopped for the day.
  - **May 16-September 15:** Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
  - **September 16-May 15:** Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
  - **King salmon:**
    - **20 inches or longer:**
      - **You may not fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a king salmon in such a manner that prevents determination of whether the fish is a wild or hatchery fish until you have stopped fishing in the Kasilof River drainage for the day and have moved more than 100 yards away from the Kasilof River.**

      EO **May 1-June 30: 1 per day, 1 in possession. Only hatchery produced king salmon (recognized by a healed adipose fin clip) may be retained. Once an angler retains a hatchery produced fish over 20 inches, they are not allowed to fish on the Kasilof River for any species, downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge. King salmon fishing is closed outside of these dates.**

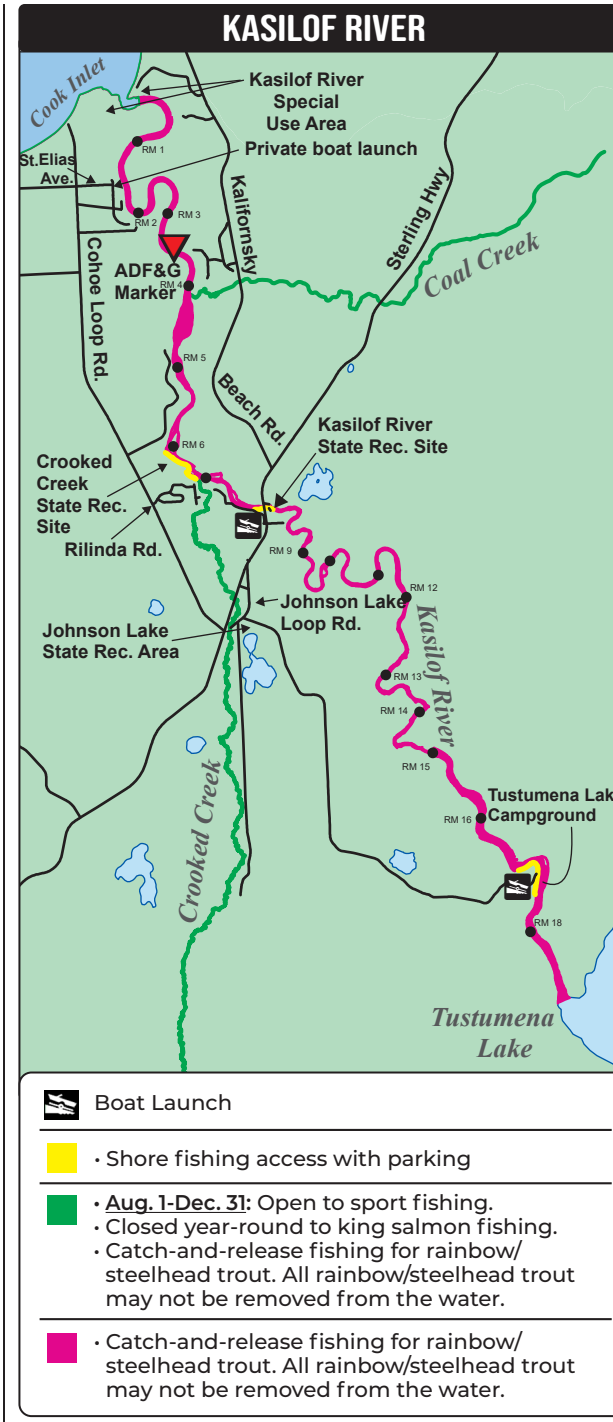
    EO **Less than 20 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession, **hatchery produced only**.

EO **The portion of Kasilof River directly downstream of the confluence of Crooked Creek, behind the midchannel island (see map below):**

- **May 1-July 31: Closed to all sport fishing in 2026 by EO.**



- **From ADF&G markers at the mouth of Crooked Creek downstream to ADF&G markers near the cutbank:**
  - **January 1-June 30: Sport fishing from an anchored boat is prohibited.** "Anchored" means using an anchor or any device other than oars or paddles to slow or stop a boat's downstream drift.



- **From the Sterling Highway Bridge upstream to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Tustumena Lake:**
  - **August 1-August 15: Sport fishing from a boat is prohibited.**
  - **January 1-August 15:** Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
  - **September 16-December 31:** Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies allowed.

EO **King salmon: King salmon fishing is closed in 2026 by emergency order.**

...continued

MOTOR USE ON THE KASILOF RIVER:

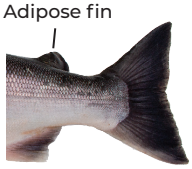
- **From the mouth of the Kasilof River to the outlet of Tustumena Lake:**
  - If you are **NOT** engaged in sport fishing activities on the same day, there are no motor use restrictions upstream.
  - If you are engaged in sport fishing activities on the same day, see page 64.

NINILCHIK RIVER DRAINAGE:

- **January 1-May 22: Closed to all sport fishing.**
- **Wild king salmon: Closed to retention.**
- **Hatchery king salmon:**
  - See the table on the right for open dates and gear allowed in this area.
  - **20 inches or longer:**
    - **EO 1 per day, 1 in possession.**
    - You may not fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a king salmon in such a manner that prevents determination of whether the fish is a wild or hatchery fish until you have stopped fishing in the Ninilchik River drainage for the day and have moved more than 100 yards away from the Ninilchik River.
    - 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, Kenai River, 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.
    - After harvesting a hatchery king salmon 20 inches or longer, you may not sport fish for any species in the Ninilchik River for the rest of the day.
  - **Less than 20 inches:** 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- **Wild king salmon:**
  - **Closed to retention.** All wild king salmon caught must not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:**
  - Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **Other species:**
  - See general regulations on pages 60-61.
- **Upstream from the ADF&G markers:**
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
  - **November 1-July 31: Closed to sport fishing in all flowing waters.**
  - **August 1-October 31:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
  - Only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure or fly is allowed.
  - **Other species:** See general regulations on pages 60-61.

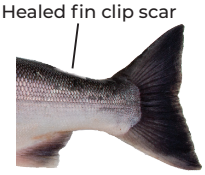
Wild/Naturally-produced

Adipose fin



Hatchery-produced

Healed fin clip scar



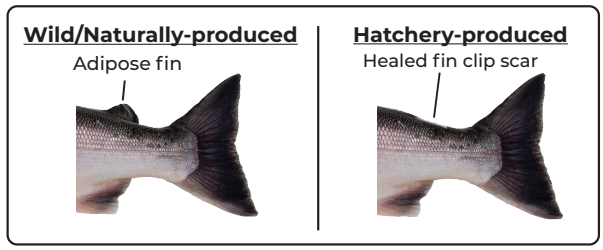
Ninilchik River from its mouth upstream approximately 2 miles to ADF&G markers:		
January 1-May 22 May 26, 27, 28, 29 June 2 June 4, 5 June 9-19 June 23-26	Closed to all sport fishing.	
May 23, 24, 25 May 30, 31 June 1 June 3 (YO Fishery) June 6, 7, 8 June 20-June 22 June 27-June 29	Closed to the retention of wild king salmon. Open to all species including hatchery king salmon.	Only one unbaited, single-hook or single-hook lure is allowed. Multiple hooks and treble hooks are not allowed.
June 30-July 15	Closed to all sport fishing.	
July 16-July 31	Closed to the retention of wild and hatchery king salmon. Open to all other species.	Only one unbaited, single-hook or single-hook lure is allowed. Multiple hooks and treble hooks are not allowed.
August 1-August 31	Closed to the retention of wild and hatchery king salmon. Open to all other species.	Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
September 1-October 31	Closed to the retention of wild and hatchery king salmon. Open to all other species.	Only one, unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly or lure is allowed.
Nov. 1, 2026, through open date in May 2027	Closed to all sport fishing.	

Jayden Skieens, coho salmon, Placer River

Marina Pinkus, Dolly Varden, Kenai River

NINILCHIK RIVER YOUTH-ONLY FISHERY:

- **From the mouth of the Ninilchik River upstream approximately 2 miles to ADF&G marker:**
  - If you are 15 years of age or younger, you may fish for hatchery king salmon from 6 a.m. to 9:59 p.m. on the second Wednesday after Memorial Day which is **June 3, 2026.**
  - EO **Hatchery king salmon: 1 per day, 1 in possession**, no size limit. Annual limits apply. See page 60.
  - **After taking a king salmon of any size from the Ninilchik River, you may not fish for any species in the Ninilchik River for the rest of the day.**
  - If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 4 for recording instructions.



STARISKI CREEK DRAINAGE:

- **November 1-June 30: Closed to all sport fishing.**
- **Closed year-round to king salmon fishing.**
- **Rainbow/steelhead trout:** Catch-and-release fishing only. All rainbow/steelhead trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **Other species:** See general regulations on pages 60-61.
- **From its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge:**
  - EO **July 1-July 31 and September 1-October 31:**
    - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.

Stariski Creek drainage continued...

  - EO **August 1-August 31:** Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
- **Upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:**
  - **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**
  - **November 1-July 31: Closed to sport fishing in all flowing waters.**
  - **August 1-October 31:** Open to sport fishing for species other than salmon.
    - Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
  - **Other species:** See general regulations on pages 60-61.

SWANSON RIVER DRAINAGE:

- **In all flowing waters:**
  - **May 1-June 10: Closed to all sport fishing.**
  - **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than king salmon. See general regulations on pages 60-61.
    - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed during the open fishing season.
  - **Rainbow/steelhead trout:** 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.

SUCKER CREEK:

- **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.**

TUSTUMENA LAKE:

- **Closed year-round to sockeye salmon fishing.**
  - Open year-round to sport fishing for species other than sockeye salmon. See general regulations on pages 60-61.

TUSTUMENA LAKE TRIBUTARIES:

- **May 1-June 10: Closed to all sport fishing.**
- **June 11-April 30:** Open to sport fishing for species other than king salmon. See general regulations on pages 60-61.

Noah Yao, Chinook salmon, Ninilchik River