

## Lower Kenai River Mainstem



Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited. If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to again hold the vessel in a fixed position.

### General Regulations - Lower Kenai River

**Inclusive waters:** The mainstem Kenai River from its mouth, denoted by a line from the green light tower on the north shore and an ADF&G marker on the south shore, upstream to and including Skilak Lake, except within a ½-mile radius of the upper Kenai River inlet. See page 59 for Upper Kenai River regulations.

**Fishing for all species is open year-round unless otherwise noted below.**

#### KING SALMON

- **Kenai River**—from its mouth upstream to 300 yards below Slikok Creek:
  - **January 1–June 30:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 34 inches in length.
  - **July 1–July 31:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.
- **300 yards below Slikok Creek upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake:**
  - **January 1–July 31:** 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than an 34 inches in length.
  - **January 1–July 31:** You may not possess a king salmon that is filleted or disfigured to prevent measurement until the fish has been permanently off loaded from a boat or removed from the riverbank fishing site where the fish was hooked and taken from the water.
- 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.
  - **Of these 5 total king salmon no more than 2 may be taken from the Kenai River.**
    - **January 1–June 30:** King salmon 20 inches or longer but less than 28 inches in length are not included in this annual limit.

- King salmon 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, Kenai River and Kenai Peninsula.
    - **Of these 5 total king salmon no more than 2 may be taken from the Kenai River.**
      - **January 1–June 30:** King salmon 20 inches or longer but less than 28 inches in length are not included in this annual limit.
  - 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 from the Kenai River, you may not fish from a boat for any species of fish in the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake.
  - If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer (except for kings measuring 20-28 inches in length), you must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.
- King salmon less than 20 inches:
  - 10 per day, 10 in possession, in combination with coho (in season), sockeye, chum, or pink salmon less than 16 inches in length.

#### SOCKEYE AND CHUM SALMON

- Fishing for sockeye and chum salmon is open the entire year unless otherwise noted below.
  - 16 inches or longer: 3 per day, 6 in possession in combination.
  - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.

## **COHO SALMON**

- **No retention of coho December 1–June 30.**
- 16 inches or longer:
  - **July 1–August 31:**
    - 2 per day, 2 in possession. The limits for coho are in combination with sockeye or chum salmon. For example, you may have 1 sockeye or chum and 2 coho per day (or 2 sockeye or chum and 1 coho) - not 3 sockeye or chum and 2 coho per day.
  - **September 1–November 30:**
    - 3 per day, 6 in possession in combination (all 3 may be coho).
  - **November 1–June 30:** Fishing for coho salmon is closed upstream of Bings Landing.
- 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.
- If you retain a bag limit of coho (silver) salmon from the Kenai River, you may not fish in the Kenai River downstream from the Soldotna Bridge on that same day.
- Less than 16 inches:
  - **July 1–November 30:** 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.
    - **November 1–June 30:** Fishing for coho salmon is closed upstream of Bings Landing.

## **PINK SALMON**

- Fishing for pink salmon is open the entire year unless otherwise noted below.
  - 16 inches or longer: 6 per day, 6 in possession.
    - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

## **RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT**

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

## **ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN**

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

## **ARCTIC GRAYLING**

- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

## **LAKE TROUT**

- 20 inches or longer: 2 per day, 2 in possession.
- Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

## **BURBOT**

- 2 per day, 2 in possession.

## **OTHER FINFISH**

- No limit.

## **NORTHERN PIKE**

- No limit
- Northern pike may be taken by spear, sport fishing gear, ice fishing gear, or by bow and arrow (the arrow must be attached to the bow with a line and the arrow must have a barbed tip).
- When fishing through the ice for northern pike, you may use two hooks on a single line, provided that both hooks are attached to one single piece of bait.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. Pike not retained for personal use may be disposed of through lawful and safe methods, including returning dead pike to the water.

## **Methods and Means - Lower Kenai**

### **Landing a salmon:**

- Salmon may be landed **only** with the aid of a landing net or by hand. No gaffs are allowed.

### **Fishing from an anchored vessel:**

- Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited. If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to hold the vessel in a fixed position.

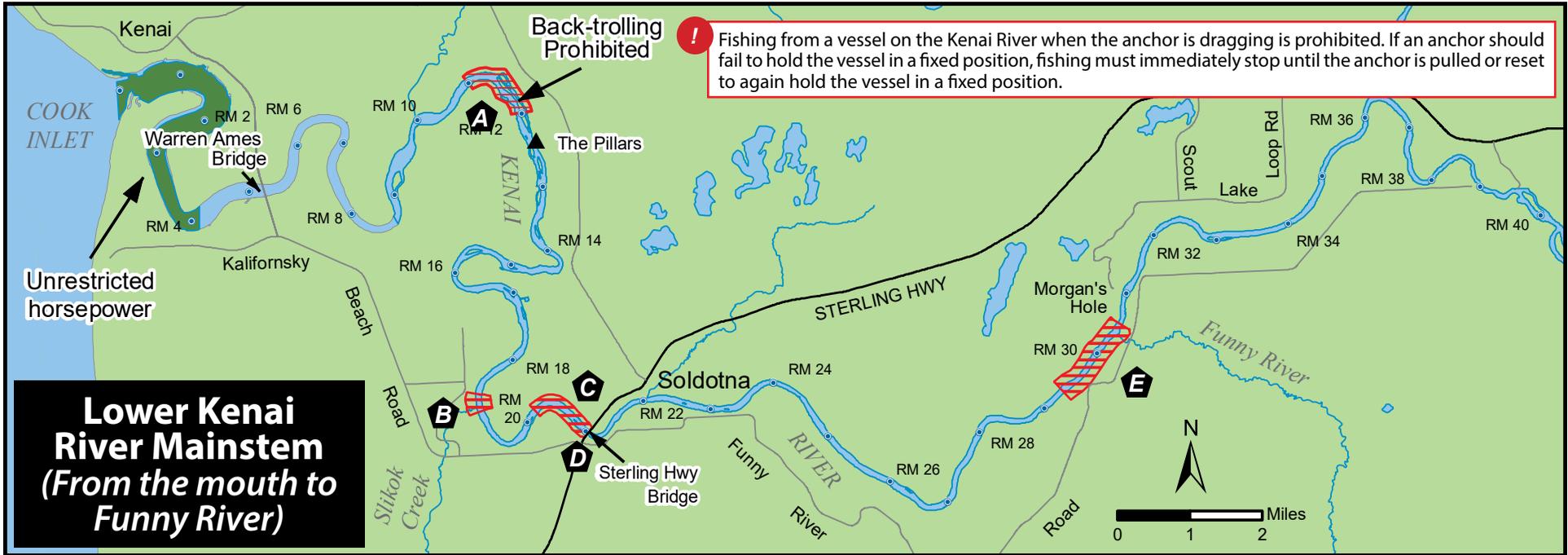
### **Drift-only Mondays (downstream of Skilak Lake):**

#### **Downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake:**

- Mondays, May 1–July 31 (except Memorial Day):
  - Between the outlet of Skilak Lake and the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna:
    - **Closed to fishing from any motorized vessel** (a motorized vessel is one that has a motor on board). Motors may be used to transport anglers to shore fishing locations, but anglers may not fish from any vessel that has a motor on board.
  - Between the Sterling Highway bridge and the mouth of the Kenai River:
    - **Closed to sport fishing from any motorized vessel that has on board more than one single motor greater than 10 hp.** A motor 10 hp or less may be used only downstream of an ADF&G marker at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has stopped for the day.

### **Gear Restrictions:**

- In 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 entire length of the line or leader.



**Lower Kenai River Mainstem (From the mouth to Funny River)**

**Special Regulations - Lower Kenai**

That portion of the Kenai River between ADF&G regulatory markers located at river mile 11 and river mile 12:

- A July 1–July 31:**
  - Back-trolling prohibited. You may not sport fish for any species of fish from a vessel that is making upstream progress relative to the water with the aid of a motor.

The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 300 yards downstream of the mouth of Slikok Creek upstream to ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek:

- B May 1–July 31:**
  - Closed to fishing for king salmon.
  - Closed to fishing from boats.
  - Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 8 for definition of “artificial fly”).

That portion of the Kenai River between ADF&G regulatory markers 250 yards downstream from the upper breakwater at the Centennial Campground boat launch upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna:

- G May 1–July 31:**
  - Closed to fishing from boats.

Soldotna Centennial Campground boat launch lagoon:

- D July 1–August 30:**
  - Closed to all fishing.

Funny River confluence area:

- E The Kenai River from ADF&G markers about 1 mile downstream of the mouth of Funny River upstream to ADF&G markers about 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River:**
  - May 1–July 31:**
    - Closed to fishing for king salmon.
    - Closed to fishing from boats.
    - Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies. See page 8 for the definition of “artificial fly.”

### **Morgan's Hole:**

**F** The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about 100 yards downstream from the landing at Morgan's Hole (river mile 31) upstream to an ADF&G marker at the north section line of Section 28, T5N, R9W, Seward Meridian:

- **May 1-July 31:**
- **Closed to fishing from boats.**

### **Moose River confluence area:**

**G** The Kenai River from ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yards downstream of the mouth of the Moose River, upstream to ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yards upstream of the mouth of the Moose River:

- **May 1-July 31:**
- **Closed to fishing from boats.**

### **Lower Killey River confluence area:**

**H** The Kenai River from an ADF&G marker about ¼ mile downstream of the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River:

- **May 1-July 31:**
- **Closed to fishing for king salmon.**
- **Closed to fishing from boats.**
- Fishing is allowed using only artificial flies (see page 8 for definition of "artificial fly").

## **Lower Kenai River Mainstem (From Funny River upstream to Skilak Lake)**



**The Kenai River** from an ADF&G marker about 1 mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to Skilak Lake:

- I** **May 1-June 10:** **Closed to all fishing.**

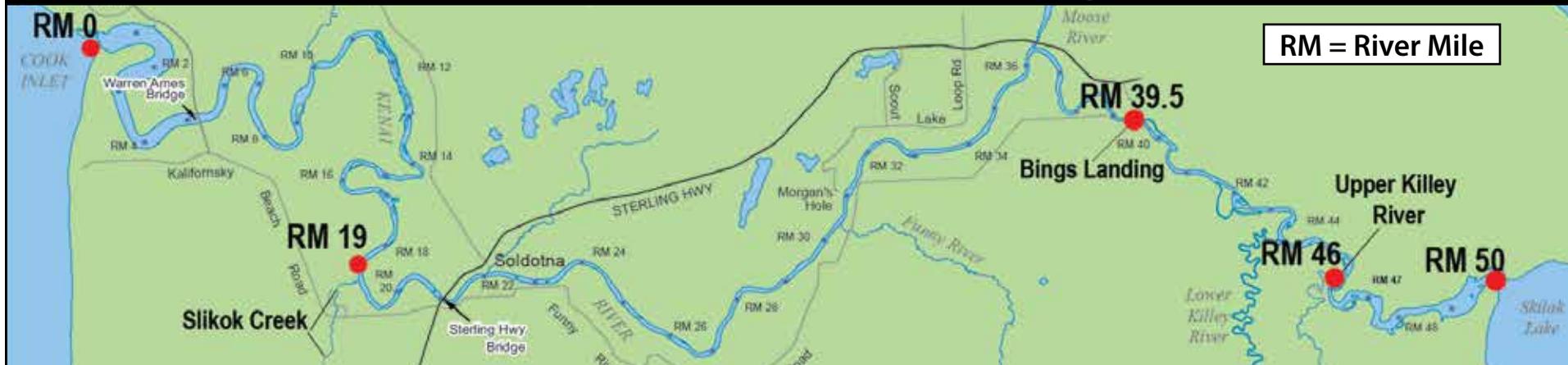
### **Skilak Lake outlet:**

- J** The Kenai River from the swan sanctuary sign at the outlet of Skilak Lake downstream approximately 3 miles to the corresponding swan sanctuary sign near river mile 47:
  - **August 1-December 31:**
  - **Closed to fishing from an anchored vessel.** "Anchored vessel" means using an anchor or any device other than oars, paddles or outboard motor to slow or stop a boat's downstream drift.

### **Skilak Lake:**

- **Closed to king salmon fishing.**
- Except that part of the lake within ½ mile of the upper Kenai River inlet:
  - Bait and multiple hooks allowed year-round.
  - Refer to General Regulations on pages 50 and 51 for seasons and limits.

Lower Kenai River Mainstem (Gear and Bait Regulations)



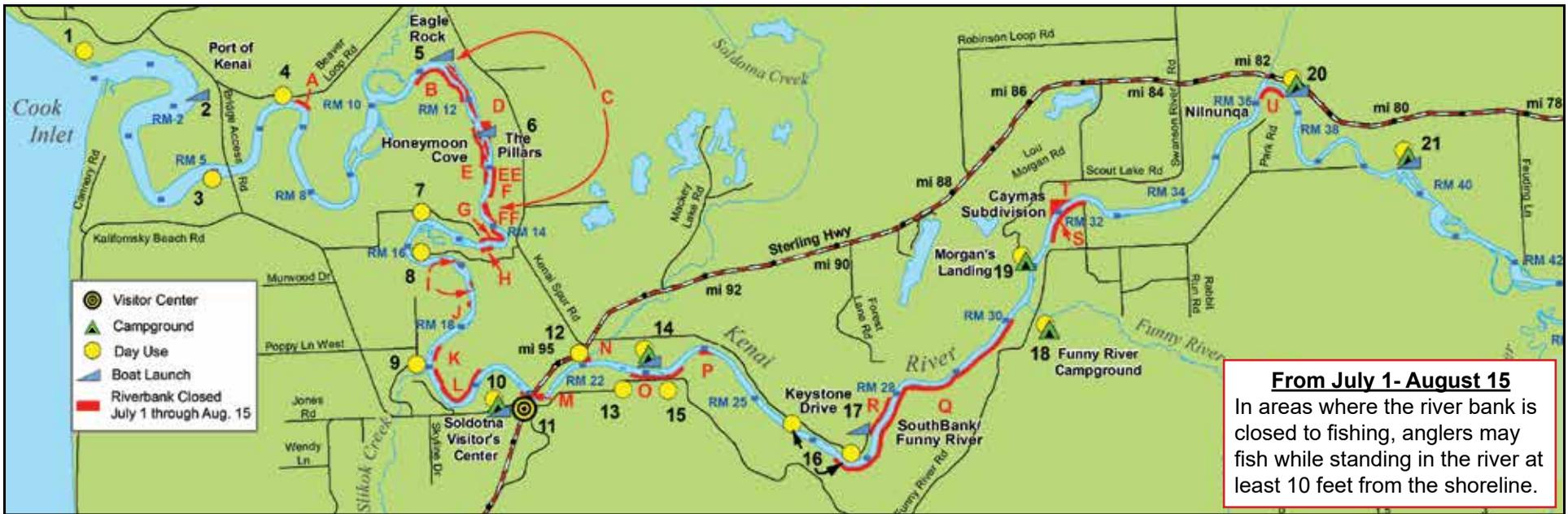
**Date Range:** January 1–August 31

<b>From approximately River Mile 0 to River Mile 50</b> (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake):	
<b>January 1–June 30:</b>	Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
<b>From approximately River Mile 0 to River Mile 19</b> (The mouth of the Kenai River to ADF&G markers 300 yards downstream from Slikok Creek):	
<b>July 1–July 31:</b>	Bait is allowed, but anglers must still use only one single hook lure or fly.
<b>From approximately River Mile 19 to River Mile 50</b> (ADF&G markers 300 yards downstream from Slikok Creek to markers at Skilak Lake):	
<b>July 1–July 31:</b>	Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
<b>From approximately River Mile 0 to River Mile 50</b> (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake):	
<b>August 1–August 31:</b>	Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.

Selected areas near tributary streams have special tackle and king salmon regulations that override the gear restrictions in these tables. See Special Regulations.

**Date Range:** September 1–December 31

<b>From approximately River Mile 0 to River Mile 46</b> (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to the Upper Killey River):	
<b>September 1–October 31:</b>	Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
<b>From approximately River Mile 46 to River Mile 50</b> (The Upper Killey River upstream to ADF&G markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake):	
<b>September 1–December 31:</b>	Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
<b>From approximately River Mile 0 to River Mile 39.5</b> (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to Bings Landing):	
<b>November 1–November 30:</b>	Bait and multiple hooks are allowed.
<b>From approximately River Mile 39.5 to River Mile 50</b> (Bings Landing upstream to ADF&G markers at Skilak Lake):	
<b>November 1–December 31:</b>	Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.
<b>From approximately River Mile 0 to River Mile 50</b> (The mouth of the Kenai River upstream to ADF&G markers at Skilak Lake):	
<b>December 1–December 31:</b>	Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed.



Public Access Points =  Riverbank Closure =

1	Mouth of the Kenai River	
2	Port of Kenai	City of Kenai - Boat Launch
3	Kenai Flats State Rec. Site	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area
4	Cunningham Park	City of Kenai - Day-Use Picnic Area
5	Eagle Rock	Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch
6	The Pillars	Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch
A	Near CUNNINGHAM PARK	North bank between river miles 6.6 and 6.8
B	EAGLE ROCK	South bank between river miles 10.7 and 12.0
C	STATE-OWNED ISLANDS	Between river miles 11 and 15 (see lines D-H below)
D	THE PILLARS area	North bank between river miles 12.4 and 12.6
E	HONEYMOON COVE area	South bank between river miles 12.5 and 13.0
EE	HONEYMOON COVE	North bank between river miles 13.0 and 13.2
F	Near FALLING-IN-HOLE	East bank between river miles 13.2 and 13.5
FF	Near STEWART'S LANDING	North bank between river miles 13.6 and 14.0
G	WEST BANK	Between river miles 14.0 and 14.4
H	Near BIG EDDY ROAD	South bank between river miles 14.4 and 14.6
7	Ciechanski	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area
8	Big Eddy	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area

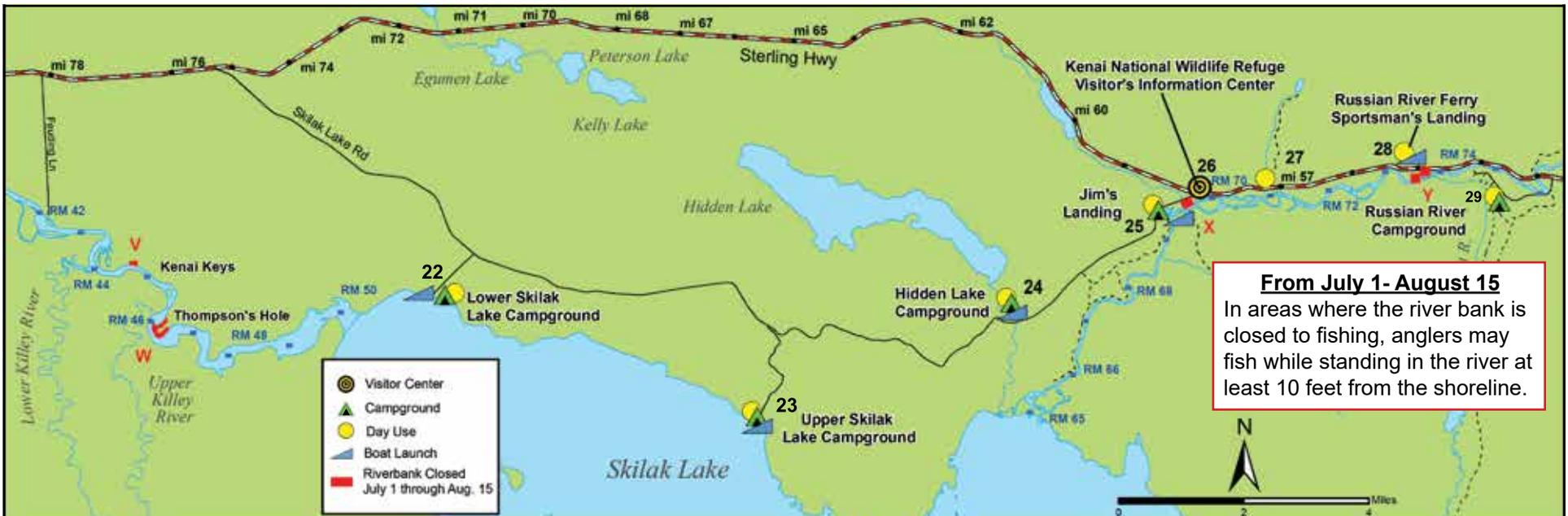
I	STATE-OWNED ISLANDS	Between river miles 17.0 and 17.3
J	Near POACHERS COVE	West bank between river miles 17.5 and 17.6
K	NORTH BANK	Between river miles 18.6 and 18.8
9	Slikok Creek	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use Picnic Area
L	NORTH BANK	Between river miles 18.9 and 20.2
10	Centennial Park Campground	City of Soldotna- Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
M	Near SOLDOTNA VISITOR'S CENTER	South bank between river miles 20.9 and 21.0
11	Soldotna Visitor's Center	Boardwalk
12	Soldotna Creek Park	City of Soldotna - Day-Use Picnic Area, Boardwalk Access
13	Donald E. Gilman River Center	Alaska State Parks - Day-Use
14	Swiftwater Campground	City of Soldotna- Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch, Boardwalk Access
N	SOLDOTNA CREEK	North bank from the mouth of Soldotna Creek upstream between river miles 22.0 to 22.1
15	Rotary Park	City of Soldotna - Day-Use
O	Near SOLDOTNA AIRPORT	South bank between river miles 22.7 and 23.5
16	Moose Range Meadows	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Day-Use
P	SOUTH BANK	Between river miles 23.8 and 24.2
17	Keystone Dr. (end of road) boat launch	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - Boat Launch
Q	SOUTH BANK/FUNNY RIVER	River mile 26.4 to 30.0

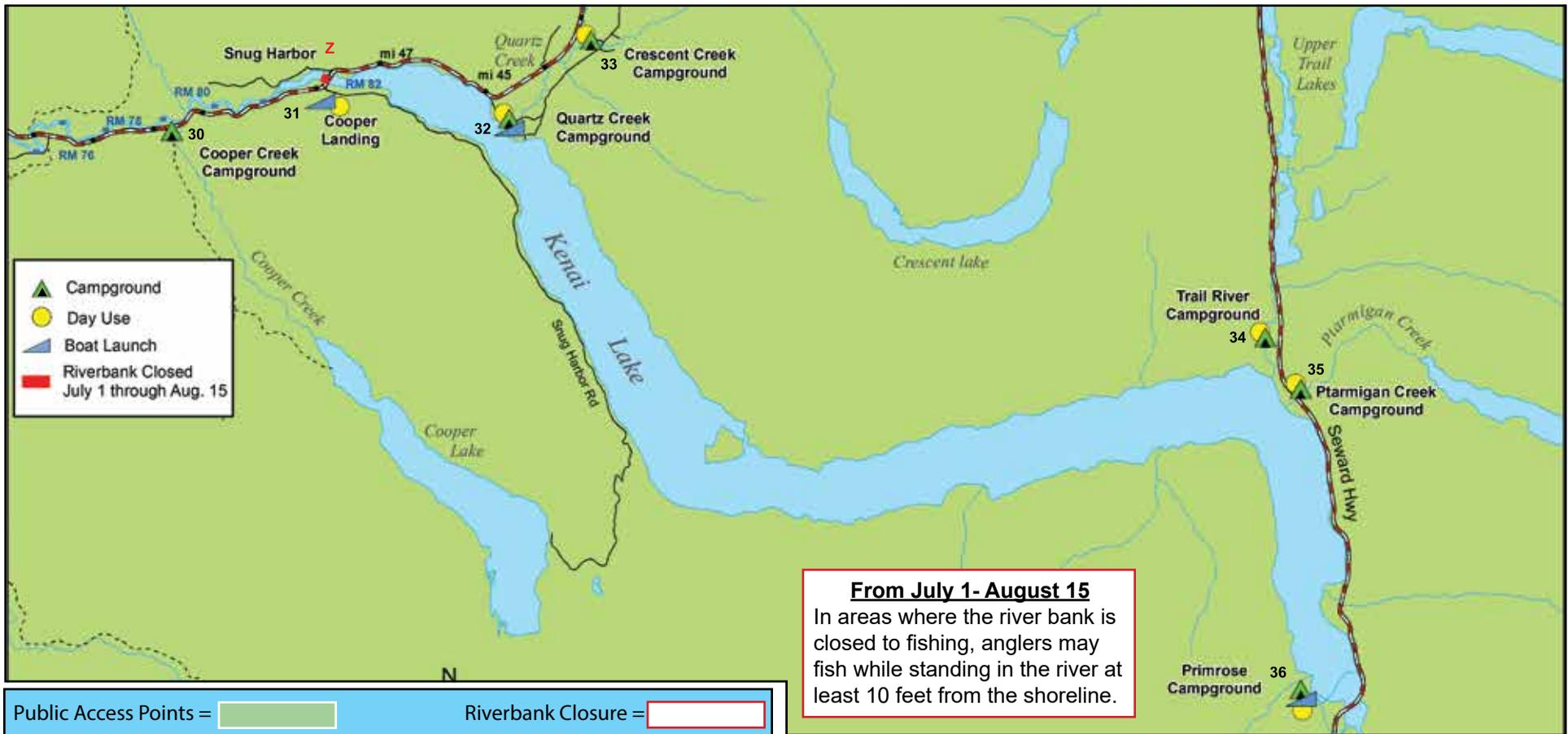
# KENAI RIVER - LOWER & UPPER KENAI RIVER RIVERBANK CLOSURES

18	Funny River Campground	Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area
19	Morgan's Landing	Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boardwalks
R	Near KEYSTONE DRIVE	North bank from river mile 27.3 (upstream edge of boat ramp at the end of Keystone Drive) to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary at river mile 28 (near the powerline)
S	HANSEN RIVER RANCH	South bank from river mile 31.5 to 32.5
T	CAYMAS SUBDIVISION	North bank, river mile 31.8 to 32.3
U	NILNUNQA	South bank between river miles 36.0 and 36.6
20	Izaak Walton State Recreation Site	Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
21	Bing's Landing	Alaska State Parks - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
V	Near KENAI KEYS	North bank between ADF&G markers at river mile 44.6
W	THOMPSON'S HOLE	North bank between river miles 45.8 and 46.3
22	Lower Skilak Lake	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge- Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
23	Upper Skilak Lake	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge- Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch

24	Hidden Lake	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge- Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
25	Jim's Landing	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge- Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
X	Near JIM'S LANDING	North bank from river mile 69.7 to an ADF&G marker just downstream of the boat launch
26	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Information Center	
27	Sterling Highway Milepost 57 Pullout	
28	Russian River / Sportsman's Landing	U.S. Forest Service - Foot-Traffic Ferry, Boat Launch, Day-Use Picnic Area
Y	RUSSIAN RIVER FERRY/ SPORTSMAN'S LANDING	North bank, upstream of the ferry crossing, between river miles 73.5 and 73.6
29	Russian River Campground	U.S. Forest Service- Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area

Public Access Points =  Riverbank Closure =





Public Access Points =  Riverbank Closure =

30	Cooper Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground
31	Cooper Landing	Alaska State Parks - Boat Launch
Z	COOPER LANDING BOAT LAUNCH	South bank near river mile 82.0, from the bridge downstream about 1,000 ft to an ADF&G marker (just past the Sterling Highway bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake)
32	Quartz Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area, Boat Launch
33	Crescent Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area
34	Trail River Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area
35	Ptarmigan Creek Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Day-Use Picnic Area
36	Primrose Campground	U.S. Forest Service - Campground, Boat Launch



A Dolly Varden from the Upper Kenai River

# Kenai River Boat and Motor Regulations: *Alaska State Parks*

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*The Alaska State Legislature created the Kenai River Special Management Area in 1984 and charged Alaska State Parks with its management. Here are their boating regulations for the Kenai River, summarized for your convenience.*

**For more information on boat motor regulations on the Kenai River, call the Donald E. Gilman River Center at (907) 714-2470.**

## Horsepower Restrictions

No one may operate a boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.2 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) with outboard or combination of outboards having a total propshaft rating greater than 50 HP. Propshaft horsepower rating means the boat motor's original manufacturer rated and labeled horsepower. Adding a jet drive unit to a motor does not change the propshaft horsepower rating of the motor powerhead and driveshaft configuration. These horsepower limitations do not apply to the operation of a boat on Kenai Lake, on Skilak Lake, and on the Kenai River between the Kenai Lake Bridge and river mile 80.7 (see maps on pgs. 50 and 59).

## Four Stroke or Direct Fuel Inject Requirements

Regardless of time of year or motor horsepower, no one may operate a motorized boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located at approximately river mile 4.2 (downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge) unless the motor is a four-stroke motor or a direct fuel injection motor. This includes boats operated on Kenai and Skilak Lakes.

## Boat Length Requirements

Except on Kenai and Skilak lakes, no one may operate a motorized boat on the Kenai River upstream of a DNR marker located (at approximately river mile 4.0) downstream of the Warren Ames bridge that exceeds overall boat size to no more than 21 feet long and 106 inches wide.

## Drift Areas, Motor Use Prohibited

- Operating a boat by use of a motor is prohibited year-round on the Kenai River, from Skilak Lake inlet upstream to river mile 80.7 (see maps on pages 50 and 59).
- From March 15 to June 14, operating a boat by use of a motor on the Kenai River is also prohibited from river mile 47 upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake (see map on page 54).

## Alaska's Boating Safety Law

**REGISTRATION:** In January 2011, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) assumed boat registration from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

- All motorized boats must be registered, either with the DMV or as a vessel meeting documentation requirements of the USCG.
- Registration card must be carried on board the boat.



**SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:** State safety and equipment requirements are identical to USCG federal requirements, with the addition of the following: "All persons under 13 years of age must wear a USCG approved life jacket while on the deck of a boat or in an open boat."

Obtain a complete list of safety and equipment requirements and other vital boating safety information from the State Office of Boating Safety at (907) 269-8705, or visit their website: [www.alaskaboatingsafety.org](http://www.alaskaboatingsafety.org).

## Passenger Limits

No more than 6 persons are allowed on board, including operator (*except for guided vessels in July, below the outlet of Skilak Lake*, which may have no more than 5 persons on board).

## Tying Up

No one may tie up a boat to state land, easement, or rights-of-way for more than 24 consecutive hours.

## Anchoring

No one may anchor a boat on the Kenai River that obstructs a primary traffic channel or drift fishing channel.

## General Regulations - Upper Kenai

**Inclusive waters:** The mainstem Kenai River, from waters of Skilak Lake within a ½-mile radius of the river inlet upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, including the Russian River drainage.

**Fishing is open June 11 - April 30 unless otherwise noted below. Closed to all fishing May 1 - June 10.**

### KING SALMON

- **Closed to king salmon fishing.**

### OTHER SALMON

- Coho salmon: See below for bag and possession limits.
  - **Season: July 1–October 31.**
    - 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.
- Pink, chum and sockeye (red) salmon:
  - **Season: June 11–April 30.**
    - 16 inches or longer:
      - Pink salmon: 6 per day, 6 in possession.
      - Coho, Sockeye (red) and chum salmon:
        - 3 per day, 6 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be coho salmon through August 31. (From September 1 through October 31, all 3 per day and 6 in possession may be coho).
    - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.

### RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

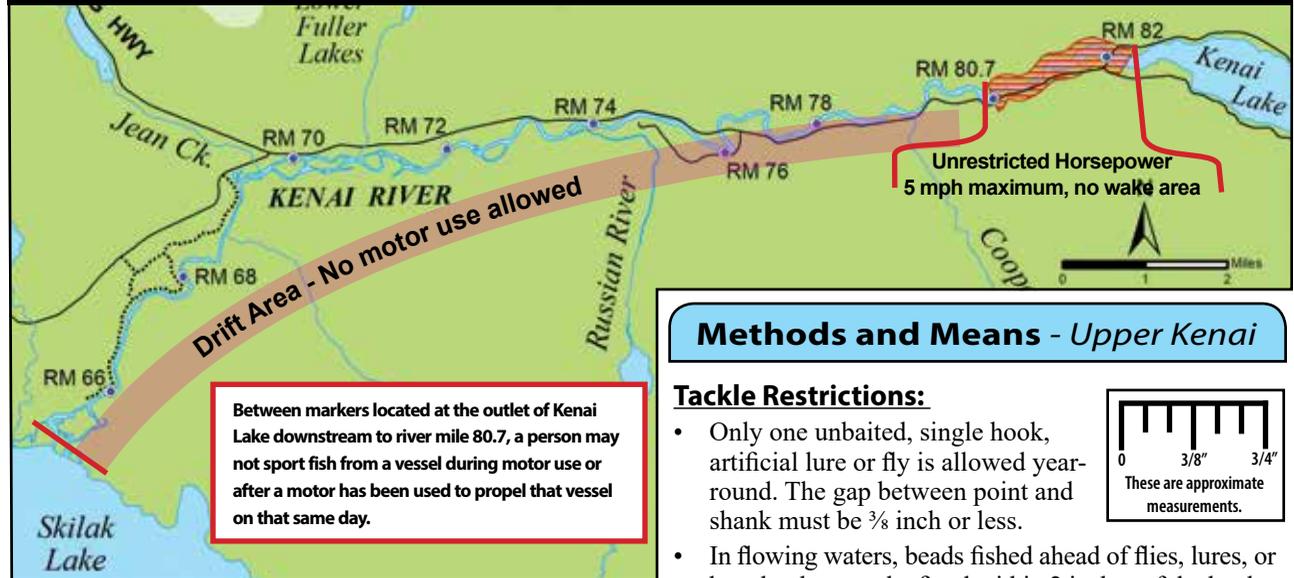
### ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN

- 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.

### ARCTIC GRAYLING

- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

# Upper Kenai River



### BURBOT

- In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters: 2 per day, 2 in possession.

### LAKE TROUT

- 20 inches or longer: 2 per day, 2 in possession.
- Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

### NORTHERN PIKE

- No limit.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. Pike not retained for personal use may be disposed of through lawful and safe methods, including returning dead pike to the water.
- For more regulations on northern pike that apply to the entire Kenai drainage, see page 62.

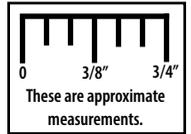
### OTHER FINFISH

- No limit.

## Methods and Means - Upper Kenai

### Tackle Restrictions:

- Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
- In flowing waters, beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook or be free to slide on the entire length of the line or leader.



### River Bank Closures:

- There are special bank access regulations on the Kenai River. See pages 55–57 for public access points on the Kenai River.

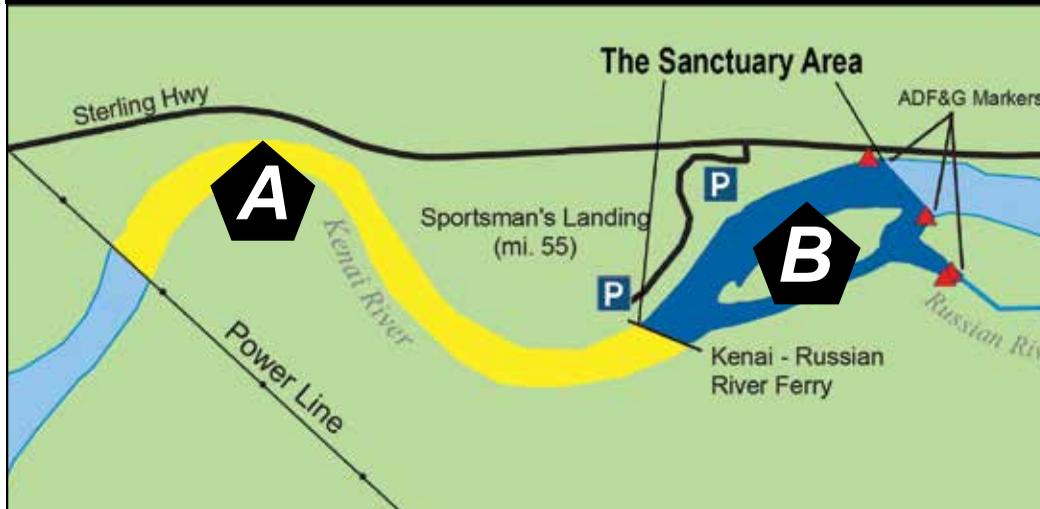
### Gear Restrictions:

- Salmon may be landed only with the aid of a landing net or by hand. No gaffs are allowed.
- See page 58 for motorboat restrictions.

### Fishing from an anchored vessel:

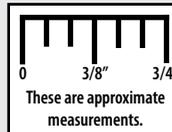
- Fishing from a vessel on the Kenai River when the anchor is dragging is prohibited. If an anchor should fail to hold the vessel in a fixed position, fishing must immediately stop until the anchor is pulled or reset to hold the vessel in a fixed position.

## Upper Kenai River and Russian River Confluence



### Gear in Fly-Fishing-Only waters

- One unweighted, single hook, unbaited fly with gap between point and shank of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or less is allowed. The fly must weigh less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. Artificial flies are defined on page 8.
- If weights are used, they must be at least 18" ahead of the fly.



## Area B "The Sanctuary"

A section of the Kenai River upstream from ADF&G markers located downstream of the Kenai-Russian Ferry crossing, to ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing. This section includes the waters around the upstream end of the island in front of the Russian River mouth. The section also includes the Russian River, from its mouth upstream about 100 yards to ADF&G markers:

- **May 1–July 14:** Closed to fishing for all species.
- **July 15–August 20:** Only artificial flies are allowed in these waters. See description in map at left.
- Sockeye or coho salmon:
  - **July 15–August 20:** Open to fishing.
    - 16 inches or longer: 3 per day, 6 in possession in combination. Only 1 per day, 1 in possession may be coho salmon.
    - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.
  - There is no retention of sockeye in this section after August 20.
- Coho salmon:
  - **August 21–October 31:** 16 inches or longer: 1 per day, 1 in possession.
    - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

## Area A

The Kenai River upstream of the Powerline to ADF&G markers placed just downstream of the ferry crossing:

- **June 11–August 20:** Only artificial flies are allowed in these waters. See description in map above.
- **May 1–June 10:** Closed to all fishing.
- Sockeye salmon:
  - **June 11–August 20:** Open to fishing.
    - 16 inches or longer: 3 per day, 6 in possession.
    - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.
    - There is no retention of sockeye in this section after August 20.
  - Coho salmon:
    - **July 1–October 31:** Open to fishing.
      - 16 inches or longer: 1 per day, 1 in possession.
        - From July 1–August 20 when sockeye and coho can be retained, the coho limit is **not** in addition to the sockeye limit. For example, an angler may retain 2 sockeye and 1 coho per day.
      - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.

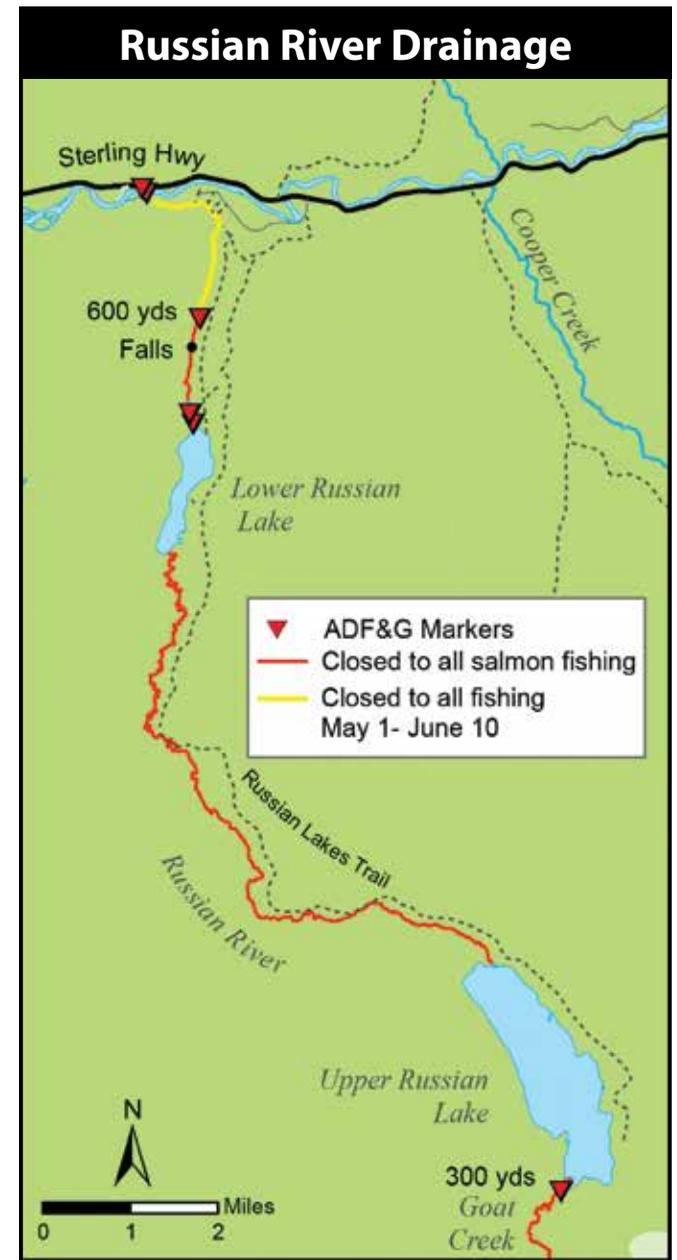
## Kenai mainstem outside of areas A and B

The mainstem Kenai River, from the Powerline (downstream boundary of Area A) downstream to the waters of Skilak Lake within a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile radius of the river inlet:

- General Regulations listed on page 59 apply in this section.
- Kenai River upstream from ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing to the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake:
  - General Regulations listed on page 59 apply in this section.
  - Between markers located at the outlet of Kenai Lake downstream to river mile 80.7, a person may not sport fish from a vessel during motor use or after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on that same day. See map on page 59.

## Russian River:

- **The Russian River from an ADF&G marker located 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G marker located 600 yards downstream of the falls:**
  - **May 1–June 10:** Closed to all fishing.
  - **June 11–August 20:** Only artificial flies are allowed. See inset description on map on previous page for a description of allowable gear in fly-fishing-only waters.
- Coho salmon:
  - **July 1–September 30:** Open to fishing for coho.
    - 1 per day, 1 in possession.
    - 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.
- Sockeye salmon:
  - **June 11–August 20:** Open to fishing for sockeye.
    - 3 per day, 6 in possession.
  - Daily limits for other species are shown on page 59.
- **The Russian River Upstream from an ADF&G marker about 600 yards downstream of the falls:**
  - **Closed to all salmon fishing.**
  - **June 11–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.
  - Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
  - Daily limits for other species are shown on page 59.
- **Lower and Upper Russian Lakes:**
  - Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
  - Lower and Upper Russian Lakes are closed year-round to all salmon fishing.
  - Open season for all other species in Lower and Upper Russian Lakes is year-round.
  - Rainbow/steelhead trout: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 may be 20 inches or longer.
  - Dolly Varden: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 may be 20 inches or longer.
- **Upper Russian/Goat Creek** — *upstream from ADF&G markers about 300 yards upstream from its confluence with Upper Russian Lake:*
  - Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly is allowed year-round. The gap between point and shank must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less.
  - Fishing for all species is closed from May 1–June 10 and from August 1–August 31.
  - Closed to all salmon fishing.
  - Daily limits for other species are shown on page 59.





## General Regulations - Kenai Lake and Tributaries

### KING SALMON

- **Closed year-round to fishing for king salmon.**

### OTHER SALMON

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

### RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT

- In flowing waters: 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- In unstocked lakes: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.
- In stocked lakes: 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer. See pages 88–89 for a list of stocked lakes in this section.
- 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 must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.

### ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN

- In flowing waters: 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- In lakes and ponds: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.

### ARCTIC GRAYLING

- In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters: 5 per day, 5 in possession.

### NORTHERN PIKE

- No limit
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. Pike not retained for personal use may be disposed of through lawful and safe methods, including returning dead pike to the water.
- Northern pike may be taken by spear, sport fishing gear, ice fishing gear, or by bow and arrow (the arrow must be attached to the bow with a line and the arrow must have a barbed tip).
- When fishing through the ice for northern pike, you may use two hooks on a single line, provided that both hooks are attached to one single piece of bait.

**Inclusive waters:** Kenai Lake and all other lakes of the Kenai Lake drainage, and all flowing waters tributary to Kenai Lake.

**Fishing for all species is open year-round in lakes and ponds unless otherwise noted under Special Regulations.**

**Fishing for all species is closed from May 1 - June 10 in all flowing waters unless otherwise noted under Special Regulations**

## General Regulations (cont.) - Kenai Lake and Tributaries

### LAKE TROUT

- In lakes, ponds 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, ponds and all flowing waters: 2 per day, 2 in possession.

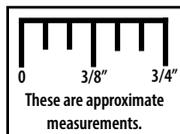
### OTHER FINFISH

- In lakes, ponds and all flowing waters: No limit.

## Methods and Means - Kenai Lake and Tributaries

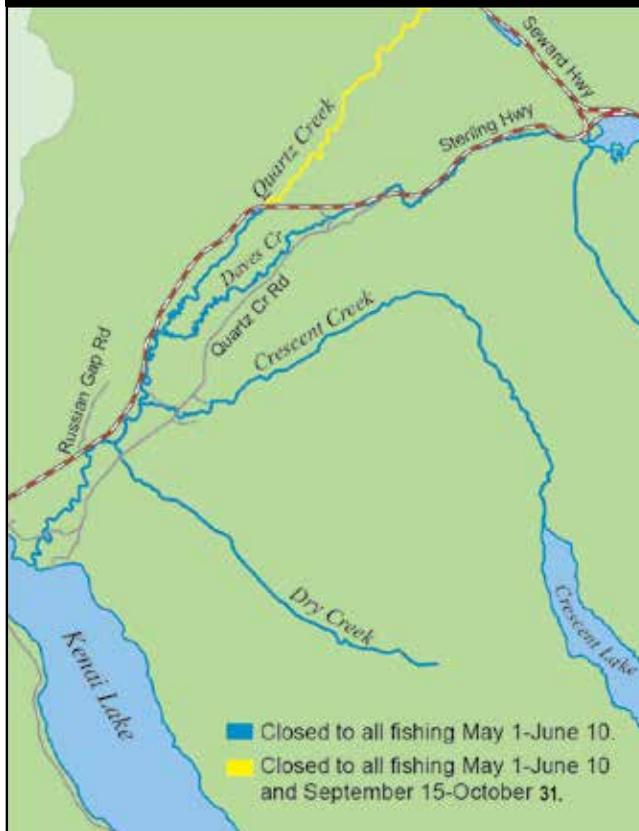
### Bait Restrictions:

- In Kenai Lake (except within ¼ mile of all inlet streams):**
  - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.
- Within ¼ mile of all inlet streams of Kenai Lake and on the Kenai River from the Sterling Highway bridge upstream approximately ¼ mile to ADF&G markers located at the outlet of Kenai Lake:**
  - Only one unbaited, single hook artificial lure or fly with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
- In all flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainages:**
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free to slide on the entire length of the line or leader.
  - Only one unbaited, single hook artificial lure or fly with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
- In non-flowing waters:**
  - Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.



## Special Regulations - Kenai Lake and Tributaries

### Kenai Lake and Tributaries



#### Kenai Lake (except within ¼ mile of all inlet streams):

- Open year-round to fishing for species other than salmon.
- Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.

#### Kenai Lake within ¼ mile of all inlet streams:

- June 11–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.

#### Kenai Lake outlet:

- Kenai Lake within ¼ mile above the Sterling Highway bridge at the outlet of the lake:**
  - June 11–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.

#### Crescent Creek drainage—including Crescent Lake:

- June 11–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.
- Arctic grayling: 2 per day, 2 in possession.

#### Quartz Creek:

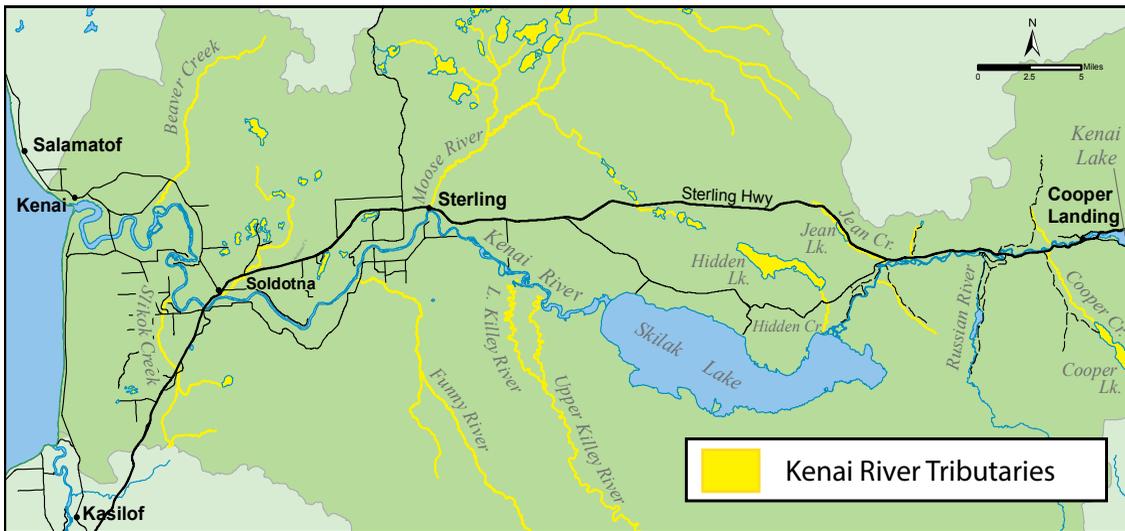
- Upstream of the Sterling Hwy. bridge (Mile 40.9):**
  - June 11–September 14:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.
  - November 1–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.
- Downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge:**
  - June 11–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.

#### Snow River drainage:

- South Fork:**
  - June 11–September 14:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.
  - November 1–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.
- Remainder of drainage:**
  - June 11–April 30:** Open to fishing for species other than salmon.

#### Trail Lake:

- Open year-round to fishing for species other than salmon following daily bag and possession limits under General Regulations.
- Bait and multiple hooks are allowed year-round.



## General Regulations - Tributaries

**Inclusive waters:** Tributaries of the Kenai River between the outlet of Kenai Lake and the mouth of the Kenai River (except those noted below):

**Fishing for all species is open year-round in lakes and ponds unless otherwise noted below. Fishing for all species is closed from May 1 - June 10 in all flowing waters unless otherwise noted below.**

**Upper Kenai River tributaries** are those that join the Kenai River between Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake, and **DOES NOT** include the Russian River, the mainstem Kenai River, or Skilak Lake.

**Lower Kenai River tributaries** are those that join Skilak Lake and the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Cook Inlet, and **DOES NOT** include the mainstem Kenai River or Skilak Lake.

## KING SALMON

- **Closed year-round to fishing for king salmon.**

## OTHER SALMON

- In flowing waters:
  - **Closed year-round to fishing for all salmon.**
- In lakes and ponds:
  - 10 per day, 10 in possession—must be less than 16 inches in length.

## ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN

- In flowing waters:
  - 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- In lakes and ponds:
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.

## ARCTIC GRAYLING

- In lakes, ponds and flowing waters:
  - 5 per day, 5 in possession.

## RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT

- In flowing waters: 1 per day, 1 in possession, must be less than 16 inches long.
- In lakes and ponds: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 fish 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 5 for recording instructions.

## LAKE TROUT

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

## BURBOT

- In flowing waters, lakes and ponds: 2 per day, 2 in possession.

## NORTHERN PIKE

- No limit.
- **Live Release Prohibited.** You are not allowed to release live pike back into the water. Pike not retained for personal use may be disposed of through lawful and safe methods, including returning dead pike to the water.
- For more regulations on northern pike that apply to the entire Kenai drainage, see page 62.

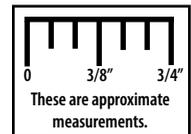
## OTHER FINFISH

- In flowing waters, lakes and ponds: No limit.

## Methods and Means - Tributaries

### Tackle Restrictions:

- **In all flowing waters of the Kenai River tributaries:**
  - Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly with a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less is allowed year-round.
  - Beads fished ahead of flies, lures, or bare hooks must be fixed within 2 inches of the hook, or be free to slide on the entire length of the line or leader.



## Special Regulations - Lower Kenai River Tributaries

**Lower Kenai River tributaries** are those that join Skilak Lake and the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Cook Inlet, and DOES NOT include the mainstem Kenai River or Skilak Lake.

### Funny River

- **May 1-July 31:** Closed to all fishing.
- **August 1 - April 30:** Open to fishing for all species except salmon.

### Killey River:

- **May 1-July 31:** Closed to all fishing.
- **August 1 - April 30:** Open to fishing for all species except salmon.

### Moose River drainage:

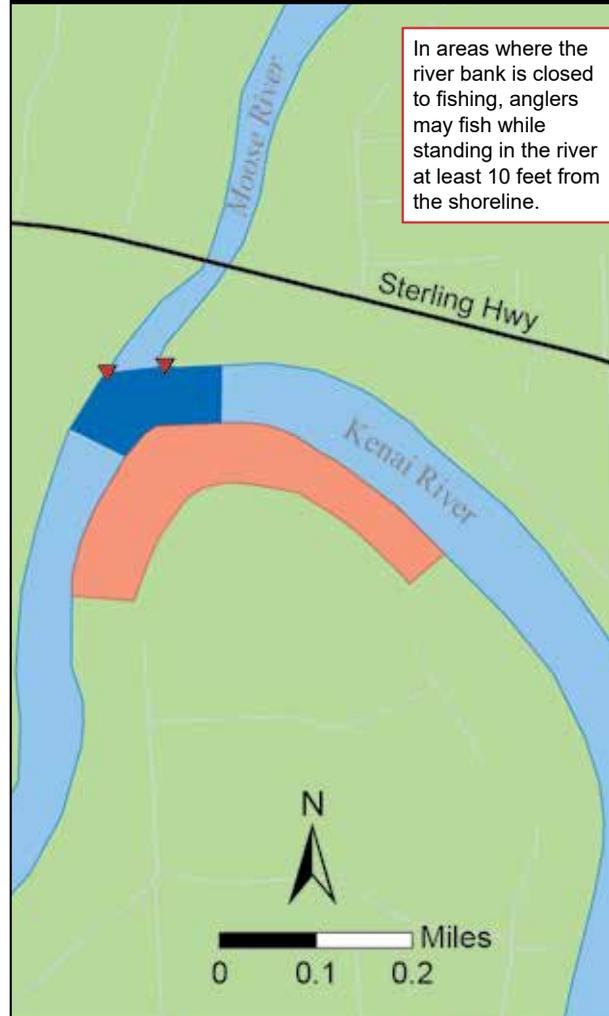
- From its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway bridge:
  - **May 1-July 31:** Only artificial flies are allowed in these waters. See page 8 for a description of allowable gear.
  - **Closed year-round to fishing for king salmon.**
  - Open to fishing for all other species following the Lower Kenai River Mainstem General Regulations.
- **Remainder of drainage:**
  - **May 1 - June 10:** Closed to fishing in flowing waters.
  - **June 11 - April 30:** Open to fishing for all species except salmon.

### Slikok Creek:

- **May 1-July 31:** Closed to all fishing.
- **August 1 - April 30:** Open to fishing for all species except salmon.

- ▼ ADFG Markers
- Closed riverbank
- May 1 - July 31. No fishing from boats

## Moose River & Confluence Area



## Special Regulations - Upper Kenai River Tributaries

**Upper Kenai River tributaries** are those that join the Kenai River between Skilak Lake and Kenai Lake, and DOES NOT include the Russian River, the mainstem Kenai River, or Skilak Lake.

### Cooper Creek:

- **June 11 - September 14:** Open to fishing for all species except salmon.
- **November 1-April 30:** Open to fishing for all species except salmon.
- **May 1-June 10 and September 15-October 31:** Closed to all fishing.

### Cooper Lake:

- Arctic char/Dolly Varden: 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 fish may be 20 inches or longer.

### Hidden Lake drainage:

- Lake trout: 1 per day, 1 in possession— must be less than 16 inches in length.
- Closed year-round to salmon fishing.
- Closed year-round to burbot fishing.

