

2026 Winter King Salmon Tournament Rules

Saturday, April 4, 2026, Hosted by the Homer Chamber of Commerce

- 1. Alaska State Rules** – All required anglers must have a 2026 Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishing license and a valid King Salmon Stamp. All anglers must comply with all Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game regulations. Accusations of ADF&G rule violations must be reported directly to the Alaska State Troopers at 235-8239. Safety equipment must comply with Coast Guard regulations.
- 2. Registration** – All anglers must have completed a tournament entry form prior to fishing. There are two Divisions, Adult and Junior. The Junior Division is for those aged 12 and under. A paid licensed Charter Boat Captain and a deck-hand do not need to be registered in the Tournament UNLESS they are planning on fishing in the Tournament. **All individuals on a boat participating in the tournament must be registered.** The Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center reserves the right to photograph all entrants, reproduce any photographs for publicity and retain all photo rights.
- 3. Communication** – All participating boats must have a VHF radio or cell phone aboard. Communicate with Tournament Headquarters on VHF #69 or cell phone 907-399-7477.
- 4. Boundary** – **The boundary area was expanded as of 4/13/21.** The north boundary at the Coast Guard marker light at Anchor Point extends offshore on a line at 59°46.113' north. (See map on page 3). **Stay advised on ADF&G Emergency Orders regarding Cook Inlet Salt Waters restrictions by checking their website [HERE](#).**
- 5. Fishing** – One (1) rod per angler. **Fishing lines in no earlier than the ringing of the bell at 9:00 am for all boats. Lines out at 4:00pm.**
- 6. Weigh In** – All fish must be weighed in by the registered angler. To be eligible for weigh-in, anglers must be in line at Tournament Headquarters by 6:00 pm. Anglers must call tournament headquarters in advance to arrange for fish to be weighed in before 2:00 pm. No live fish will be accepted as an entry. **All prize-winning fish will be gutted and inspected.** If any foreign objects are found inside the fish, it will be immediately disqualified, and the angler will be banned from any future Homer Winter Kings Salmon Tournaments or any other fishing tournament conducted by the Homer Chamber of Commerce. The angler will also be subject to legal proceedings for breaking local or state fishing regulations.
- 7. Violations** – All complaints of rule violations must be submitted in writing **within 24 hours of the end of fishing.** **Vessels and anglers violating ANY tournament rules and State/Federal guidelines will be permanently banned from entering future tournaments sponsored by the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.**
- 8. Prizes** – The tournament pays out 65% of total registrations as cash prizes to the top 1-10 fish, 11-20 win a significant merchandise prize package. Prize packages are also awarded to the top Youth Angler, top Kayak Fish, and largest White King. All entries and prize awards are subject to review and final determination by the Tournament Committee. All prize winners are subject to verification of child support payments and IRS withholding. Prize money will be awarded upon the final results of the Committee's approval. To receive prize money, the entrant must first execute a standard declaration and release form confirming compliance with the Tournament Rules. All participants are subject to a polygraph test at the discretion of the Tournament Committee and refusal to take such test will result in automatic disqualification. Decisions by the Tournament Committee will be final and binding.
- 9. Weather** – In case of bad weather on Saturday, March 21, the Tournament will be postponed until Sunday, March 22. If the weather is still an issue, then it will be postponed until Saturday, March 28, or Sunday, March 29. In case of questionable weather prior to start of fishing, the Tournament Officials will assess the conditions every thirty minutes, with the final decision for the day being made prior to 9 am. **UPDATE: Due to harbor ice conditions, the 2026 tournament has been postponed until Saturday, April 4th.**
- 10. Cancellation Policy** - No refunds will be given for tournament entry after noon on Friday, April 3rd, unless the tournament is canceled or postponed. If the tournament is postponed before 10 am the day of the tournament, the full entry fee will be refunded or applied to the rescheduled date. There will be a 5% process fee for reimbursement. **All anglers registered in the tournament at the time of postponement must notify tournament officials before the start of the makeup tournament if they plan to withdraw.** No refunds will be issued to anglers who have entered fish. **Notice of cancellation must be sent via email to wkt@homer.alaska.org.** All refunds will be mailed to entrants within 10 working days of the cancellation date.

11. **A boat side tourney** is a side tournament with varying costs of entry. The boat's representative may enter the boat in any of twelve different categories. **The maximum number of boat-side tourneys placed under the name of a boat is FIVE (5).**
12. Each boat must appoint a representative, who is an angler or the captain of the boat, and all side tournaments must be placed by that representative before 8:30 a.m. on the day of the tournament.
13. Each boat representative is responsible for receiving and disbursing the prize money and will be responsible for all applicable state and federal taxes.
14. If a boat enters a side tourney category, only fish caught on that boat can be entered under that boat name.
15. Any angler's fish caught on a boat participating in a side tourney can be entered as a side tourney fish even if that angler was not a side tourney participant.
16. **Side Tourney Prizes** – The winning boat in each side tourney category wins 65% of the total boat entries for that category. All other proceeds of the boat side tourneys remain with the Homer Chamber of Commerce.
17. All tournament participants shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Homer Chamber of Commerce, its officers, employees, agents or contractors from any and all liability (including attorney fees) or claims for damage, including personal injuries, environmental damage, death and property damage arising out of or resulting from participating in the Winter King Salmon Tournament. I have read and hereby agree to follow the 2026 Official Tournament Rules. My participation also authorizes the Homer Chamber to use any photographs taken of me during the Tournament for promotional and marketing purposes.
18. One fish per registered angler can be weighed for prize consideration.
19. In the event of a tie, all prizes shall be split between the anglers in an equitable manner by the Winter King Committee Chair.

What You Need to Know

What is a Boat Side Tourney: Boat side tourneys are a way to increase your winnings if someone on your boat catches "A BIG ONE". If you enter any of the \$25 through \$500 boat side tourney categories, you are betting that someone on your boat will catch the biggest king out of every other boat entered in that category. **REMINDER: all individuals on board the boat must be registered in the Tournament.** **Awarding of Prizes:** Top 20 unofficial results will be announced immediately following weigh-in at the awards party or on the tournament website. Official results and boat side tourneys will be announced the Monday following the Tournament, after results have been certified by the Winter King Salmon Tournament Committee. IRS regulations require gambling winnings to be reported by the Chamber of Commerce. Individuals may be taxed on their winnings. The Tournament will pay side tourney winnings in full to the Boat Representative for the winning boat.

Fishing Rules Enforcement: Report any violation of tournament rules to the Homer Chamber of Commerce. If someone is breaking ADF&G or Coast Guard rules, contact the state enforcement office at 262-4453. The dispatcher will immediately contact the troopers on the water. The Alaska State Troopers Patrol Boat will be on the water all day.

Fish and Game Regulations: Please refer to 2025 Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations

ANNUAL LIMIT, HARVEST RECORDING REQUIREMENT: UPDATED: 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. If you intend to release a king salmon 20 inches or longer you may not remove it from the water. A king salmon 20 inches or longer, removed from the water, must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person initially hooking it. This is not a comprehensive list of the sport fishing regulations, and you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the sport fishing regulations for the waters you intend to fish - consult the most current Southcentral Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for a complete listing of the sport fishing regulations pertaining to this area. The 2026 Sport Fishing Regulations Summary may not be available until mid-April. You can also check online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/>.

Alaska Boating Safety Law: The safety of anglers fishing during the salmon tournament is a top priority. If you would like to set up a vessel safety check, contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiner in your area Homer: 299-0232 or 299-6150. Soldotna/Kenai/Nikiski: 776-8457 or 398-6548. Anchorage: 349-7903.

You are required to meet U. S. Coast Guard safety equipment regulations and requirements. For a complete copy of Alaska's Boating Safety law, access the link www.alaskaboatingsafety.org or contact AK Boating Law Administrator at (907) 269-8705.

QUESTIONS? Tournament Headquarters: 235-7740 (Mon thru Fri) or 399-7477 (Sat)

Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will be open:

March 30-April 3: Monday-Wednesday 9-5,

Thursday 9-6

Friday 8-6.

Kick-Off Party -Alice's Champagne Palace, Friday, 4:00-8:00 PM

Saturday, TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS is at The Deep Water Dock Area, 4667 Freight Dock Road, which opens at 6 am.

Map shows the boundary line running west to east across the Cook Inlet at latitude 59 46.113.

