

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-03-11

Issued at Yakutat, Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Effective 12:01 a.m.  
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,  
December 31, 2011. Unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage sport fishery for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, including catch and release fishing. Any king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 (b) (6) (F) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective from 12:01a.m. Wednesday, April 6 through December 31, 2011:

### **5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.**

(b) (6) In the Situk River drainage,

(F) Fishing for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is closed. Any king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Brian Marston  
Yakutat Area Management Biologist  
Division of Sport Fish

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal of 450 to 1,050 large king salmon. The preseason forecast of the king salmon run to the Situk River is the lowest yet predicted at 155 large fish. Because the preseason estimate is well below the escapement goal, early and conservative regulations are warranted to help maximize escapement.

The Department closes a sport fishery for a certain species instead of prohibiting the retention of that species when terminal gear used and/or fishing techniques for that species with conservation concerns are not similar to that used for other species present that have no conservation issues to ensure the restriction is enforceable. Since the gear and techniques used for king salmon are not similar to that used for other species present in the Situk River drainage for which there are no conservation issues, a closure to fishing for king salmon is enforceable. Therefore the department is closing the sport fishery for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and

requiring that king salmon 20 inches or greater in length must remain in the water and be released immediately.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.