

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-18-15

Issued at: Yakutat, Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2015. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon in the Situk River to 6 per day, 12 in possession. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, through Thursday, December 31, 2015.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area. (b)(8) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, through Thursday, December 31, 2015:

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

(b)(8) in the Lost River and Ahrnklin River and all drainages flowing into or between the Lost River and Ahrnklin River, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon is a bag limit of three fish and a possession limit of six fish, except that in the Situk River the bag limit for sockeye salmon is 6 fish per day and a possession limit of 12 fish.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brian Marston
Yakutat Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal for sockeye salmon in the Situk River is 30,000 - 70,000 fish. As of July 13, 2015, 47,176 sockeye salmon have been counted through the Situk River weir. Average run timing data for sockeye salmon on the Situk River indicates that 40% of the run is still to come, and the escapement goal range is projected to be exceeded. To provide additional sport fish harvest opportunity as provided in 5 AAC 75.003. (2)(A), it is warranted to increase the harvest limits of sockeye salmon in the Situk River.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-17-15 issued on Thursday July 9, 2015, which closed the Situk River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon remains in effect. King salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must 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.