

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-11-16

Issued at: Yakutat, Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
December 31, 2016. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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 (b)(6)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, May 12 through Saturday, December 31, 2016:

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)(6) In the Situk River drainage,

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brian Marston
Yakutat Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large king salmon. In years 2010 through 2012, and again in 2015, the Situk River king salmon stock failed to achieve the BEG. In 2013 and 2014 the goal was achieved after restrictive management measures were implemented in the sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. The 2016 preseason forecast estimated a total run of approximately 684 large king salmon. Given recent harvest trends, and small escapements, a run of that size in the Situk River is not expected to achieve the escapement goal without preseason king salmon fishery restrictions. Therefore it is warranted to close the Situk River to sport fishing for king salmon.

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.