

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 1-14-98

Issued at: Haines, June 25, 1998

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M.
Friday, June 26, 1998

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Tuesday, September 15, 1998. Unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Chilkoot Lake and River to retention of sockeye salmon, from June 26 through September 15, 1998. All sockeye salmon caught must be immediately released.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022(19) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(1) 5 AAC 47.022 WATER	SEASON AND BAG LIMIT						SPECIAL PROVISIONS
	King Salmon	Other Salmon	Trout/Steelhead	Dolly Varden	Halibut/Lingcod	Other Fish/Shell fish	
(19) CHILKOOT LAKE AND RIVER	Closed	1D ¹	1L, 1R	1H		1S	Bait may be used from January 1 through December 31. ¹ Sockeye salmon may not be possessed or retained; all sockeye salmon must be released immediately. This restriction is in effect from June 26 through September 15. Only 2 coho salmon 16 inches or more in length daily and possession. The possession limit for all other salmon is 1 bag limit.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Randy Ericksen
Haines/Skagway Area
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The early return of sockeye salmon to the Chilkoot Lake and River is projected to be well below the escapement goal (16,500-31,500). By June 24th, 705 sockeye salmon had been counted through the Chilkoot River weir. This is the lowest count in recent years and well below the average of 8,200 sockeye salmon over the past ten years by this date. Results from the recent commercial drift gill net fishery in Lynn Canal confirm that the return of Chilkoot sockeye is weak. Additional restrictions will be implemented on the commercial fishery to protect sockeye returning to this drainage. A closure of the Chilkoot Lake and River to sockeye retention is needed to boost escapement into the drainage. This restriction will remain in effect through September 15, or until escapement goals are projected to be met.

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 and at the Haines/Skagway Area Office, P.O. Box 330, Haines, AK 99827, (907) 766-2625.