

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 1-16-98

Issued at: Yakutat, July 2, 1998

Effective Date: Date: 12:01 A.M.
Sunday July 5, 1998

Expiration Date: 12:01 A.M. Thursday, December 31, 1998. Unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage to the retention of sockeye salmon from July 5 through December 31, 1998. All sockeye salmon caught must be immediately released.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022(190) are superseded by this emergency order.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/Shellfish	
(190) SITUK RIVER drainage: -from the mouth to the old railroad bridge ¹	11 ²	11G ³	11L,11R	11,I		11S,1T	¹ Senior citizens (60 years of age or older) can fish in this portion of the river year round
-from the old railroad bridge to the Middle Situk River Airstrip	1 ²	1G ³	1L, 1R	1,I		1S	² Two king salmon per day, 16" or more in length.
-upstream from the Middle Situk River Airstrip	9C ²	1G ³	1L,1R	1,I		1S	³ Sockeye salmon may not be possessed or retained; all sockeye salmon must be released immediately. This restriction is in effect from July 5 through December 31, 1998.

JUSTIFICATION:

Situk River is managed for an escapement goal range of 30,000 to 70,000 sockeye salmon. As of July 1, 1998, approximately 10,000 sockeye salmon were counted through the Situk River Weir. This number of sockeye is only one-half the past ten year average and the lowest sockeye count for this date during the past decade. Managers have projected that the escapement goal will not be achieved at the current rate of immigration. According to 5 AAC 75.003, the department is directed to restrict sport fish bag and possession limits, or methods and means of harvest when the total escapement of a species is projected to be less than the escapement goal or the lower limit of the escapement range for that species listed in a management plan that has been adopted by the Board of Fisheries. This restriction will remain in effect through December 31, 1998 or until the escapement goal is projected to be met.