

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 1-18-98

Issued at: Yakutat, July 9, 1998

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M.
Friday, July 10, 1998

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 Unless superseded by subsequent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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds emergency order 1-16-98 issued on July 2, 1998 which closed the Situk River drainage to the retention of sockeye salmon from July 5 through December 31, 1998. This emergency order establishes a bag limit of two sockeye salmon per day and a possession limit of four sockeye salmon in the Situk River drainage, and allows the use of bait from the Middle Situk River Airstrip downstream from July 10, through August 15, 1998.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022(188) are superseded by this emergency order.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	

JUSTIFICATION:

Weir counts for sockeye salmon have increased substantially since July 2 and the department now projects a seasonal escapement of greater than 45,000 sockeye in the Situk River. This number of fish is in the middle of the escapement goal range. Therefore, a limited inriver sockeye sport fishery is warranted at this time.

The Situk Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River Fishery Management Plan (5AAC 30.365) was adopted by the Board of Fisheries in 1991. This management plan established an optimum escapement goal for the Situk River of 600 large king salmon (3-ocean and older), with a range of 450 to

750 large spawners. Managers have predicted that the 1998 king salmon escapement goal will exceed 750 large fish. According to 5 AAC 75.003, the department may liberalize sport fish bag and possession limits, or methods and means of harvest when the total escapement of a species is projected to exceed the upper limit of the escapement range for that species listed in a management plan that has been adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

Therefore, the use of bait will be permitted in the Situk River downstream from the Middle Situk River Airstrip. This regulation will remain in effect through August 15, 1998.