

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-5-99

Issued at Juneau, May 26, 1999

Effective 12:01 A.M.
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 1999

Expiration Date: 12:01 A.M. Monday,
August 9, 1999. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Windfall Lake outlet stream and that portion of the Herbert River within 100 yards of the confluence of the Windfall Lake outlet stream and Herbert River to all sport fishing. This area will then be open to sport fishing two days a week during the month of June, and will then be closed until August 9. This will allow limited opportunity for anglers to fish for sockeye salmon, but will also provide necessary protection for sockeye salmon returning to the Windfall Lake drainage to spawn.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 47.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS (195) is added to read:

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	
(195) WINDFALL LAKE OUTLET STREAM and that portion of the Herbert River within 100 yards of the confluence of the Windfall Lake outlet stream and the Herbert River ¹	Closed	1D ²	1M,1R	1H		1S	¹ These waters are closed to all fishing except from 12:01 A.M to 11:59 P.M. on the following days: June 2,5,9,12,16,19,23, 26, and 30. ² Only 2 coho salmon 16 inches or more in length, and only 1 sockeye salmon, daily and in possession.

JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon returning to Windfall Lake hold and ripen at the confluence of the Windfall Lake outlet stream and the Herbert River. In the late 1980s and 1990, fishing effort at this site increased dramatically and in 1989, anglers harvested over 800 sockeye salmon. In 1990, fishing effort continued to increase dramatically.

The sport fishery has been partially or completely closed from 1991. Last year a very limited fishery was allowed because recent escapements had increased, and studies in 1997 indicated the peak counts of spawning sockeye in the index area appear to be a conservative indicator of the actual escapement. The outlet stream will be open again this year to provide anglers an opportunity to fish for sockeye salmon on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the month of June.

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.