

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-6-99

Issued at Juneau, May 26, 1999

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

Expiration Date: 12:01 A.M. Wednesday,
September 1, 1999. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Windfall Lake and all inlets to sockeye salmon fishing from June 1 through August 31, but leaves these waters open to fishing for other species. This emergency order is being issued in conjunction with E.O. 1-5-99, which provides limited opportunity for anglers to fish for sockeye salmon below the lake. This emergency order will provide necessary protection for sockeye salmon while holding in the lake and spawning in lake shores and inlet areas.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022.(56) are superseded by this emergency order.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	
(56) WINDFALL LAKE and all inlet streams	Closed	1D ^{1,2}	1M,1R	1H		1S	Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used. ¹ Only 2 coho salmon 16 inches or more in length daily and in possession. ² Closed to sockeye salmon fishing.

JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon returning to Windfall Lake hold and ripen at the confluence of the Windfall Lake outlet stream and the Herbert River. Once fish move into the lake, they continue to hold and ripen before either spawning in lake shoal areas or inlet streams to the lake. In the late 1980s and 1990, fishing effort at the confluence of Windfall Creek and the Herbert River 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 since 1991. Last year a very limited fishery was allowed at the confluence area 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. However, the action in this emergency order will protect sockeye salmon once they reach the lake and subsequently spawn.

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.