

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-26-02

Issued at Sitka, Monday, July 22, 2002

Effective 12:01 A.M. Wednesday,  
Date: July 24, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Tuesday,  
December 31, 2002. Unless superseded by a  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-16-02 issued in Sitka on June 21. This emergency order closes all marine waters of Silver Bay south of 56 ° 59' 13" North Latitude and all freshwaters of the Salmon Lake drainage to retention and possession of sockeye salmon by sport anglers from July 24 through December 31, 2002. This emergency order also decreases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater to 3 fish per day and 6 in possession in saltwater areas within a 500-yard radius of the Hoktaheen Lake and Gut Bay Lake outlet streams and the Hoktaheen Lake drainage.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022 (162) are superseded and provisions of 5 AAC 47.022 (210) and (211) are added by this emergency order.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	
(162) ALL FRESH WATERS of Salmon Lake Drainage	Closed	1D <sup>1</sup>	1M, 1R	1I		1S	<sup>1</sup> Sockeye salmon may not be possessed or retained. Only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.
(210) ALL SALT WATERS of Silver Bay south of 56 ° 59' 13" North Latitude.	1A	1D <sup>1</sup>	1L, 1R	1I	3J, 4K	1S, 1T	<sup>1</sup> Sockeye salmon may not be possessed or retained.
(211) Hoktaheen Lake drainage	Closed	1D <sup>1</sup>	1L, 1R	1I		1S, 1T	<sup>1</sup> The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is 3 fish per day and 6 in possession.

(212) Saltwater areas within a 500-yard radius of the outlet stream to Gut Bay Lake and Hoktaheen Lake.	1A	1D <sup>1</sup>	1L, 1R	1I	3J, 4K	1S, 1T	<sup>1</sup> The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is 3 fish per day and 6 in possession.
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JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon escapement at Salmon Bay Lake has been counted through a weir since June 1, 2002. The total escapement to date is 259 sockeye salmon and, based on 2001 weir data, represents about 45% of the expected escapement. Subsistence harvests reported on permit returns for Salmon Lake have ranged from 0 to 353 since monitoring began in 1985. Observed subsistence fishing effort and harvest in 2002 has been high. As a result, subsistence harvest of Salmon Lake sockeye, if left unrestricted, will likely far exceed historical reported levels of harvest and jeopardize the sustainability of this sockeye population. Sport fishing for sockeye also occurs at Silver Bay and Salmon Lake drainage and, based on estimates for the Sitka area, effort and harvest is low relative to the subsistence fishery. However, because of the low projected escapement, a closure of the sport fishery is necessary to protect the Salmon Lake sockeye population. Action is also being taken to close the subsistence fishery at the head of Silver Bay.

In response to increasing subsistence harvest trends of Hoktaheen Lake and Gut Bay Lake sockeye, department staff restricted subsistence and sport fisheries at these systems each year beginning in 1999 as a precautionary measure. Sport harvests of sockeye, while small in comparison, are known to occur at both sites. In light of increased subsistence trends, reduced sport fishing bag and possession limits are needed to protect the sockeye stocks of Hoktaheen and Gut Bay Lakes until the status of these sockeye stocks can be assessed.

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 Sitka Area Office, 304 Lake Street, Sitka, AK 99835, (907)747-5355.