

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-27-02

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 Unless superseded by a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 closes all marine waters west of a line between the commercial fishery regulatory markers at the entrance of Falls Lake Bay and the Falls Lake drainage to retention and possession of sockeye salmon by sport anglers from July 24 through December 31, 2002.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 47.022 (213) and (214) 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	
(213) Falls Lake Drainage	Closed	1D ¹	1M, 1R	1I		1S	¹ Sockeye salmon may not be possessed or retained.
(214) Marine waters west of a line between the commercial fishery regulatory markers at the entrance of Falls Lake Bay.	1A	1D ¹	1L, 1R	1I	3J, 4K	1S, 1T	¹ Sockeye salmon may not be possessed or retained.

JUSTIFICATION:

Sockeye salmon escapement at Falls Lake has been counted through a weir since June 17, 2002. The total escapement to date is 25 sockeye salmon and, based on weir data (1981–1989), represents about 25 % of the expected escapement. Subsistence harvests reported on permit returns for Falls Lake sockeye have ranged from 17 to 1,270 since monitoring began in 1985. Observed subsistence fishing effort and harvest in 2002 has been high. As a result, subsistence harvest of Falls 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 Fall Lake and, based on estimates for the Sitka area, and creel sampling in 2001, 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 Falls Lake sockeye population. Action is also being taken to close the subsistence fishery at Falls Bay.

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.