

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SH-B-02-04

Issued at Craig, Friday,
March 19, 2004

Effective 12:01 A.M. Thursday,
Date: April 1, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Tuesday, June
15, 2004, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes all fresh waters of Prince of Wales (POW) Island and Kosciusko Island to the harvesting of steelhead under sport fishing regulations, with the exception of the following waters: The Thorne River drainage, Klawock River drainage, Karta River drainage, Staney Creek drainage, Hunter Bay Creek drainage, Eagle Creek drainage and the Harris River drainage. Any steelhead caught by sport anglers in the waters covered by this Emergency Order must be immediately released without removing the fish from the water.

REGULATION: Notwithstanding **5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual and size limits, for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area (b) (4)**, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(k) In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity:

(8) In all fresh waters of Prince of Wales Island and Kosciusko Island excluding the Thorne River drainage, Klawock River drainage, Karta River drainage, Staney Creek drainage, Hunter Bay Creek drainage, Eagle Creek drainage and the Harris River drainage, sport fishing is closed to the harvesting of steelhead. In waters closed to the harvest of steelhead any steelhead caught must be immediately released and may not be removed from the water.

JUSTIFICATION: Federal subsistence regulations and permit provisions implemented in 2004 on Prince of Wales and Kosciusko Islands have raised concerns about the potential of over harvesting individual steelhead stocks. The majority of the coastal streams on these islands are small, and are thought to support returns numbering 200 steelhead or less. Although the harvest of steelhead by sport anglers is low in the POW area, these small streams cannot support a directed sport harvest when coupled with the potential subsistence harvest. This action eliminates directed sport harvests in systems thought to support annual runs of 200 steelhead or less.

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; at the Ketchikan Area Office, 2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 207, Ketchikan, AK 99901, (907) 225-2859; and at the Prince of Wales Island Area Office, P.O. Box 682 Craig, AK 99921, (907) 826-2498.

Kevin C. Duffy

Commissioner

By delegation to:

Steven McCurdy
Prince of Wales Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish