

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-14-07

Issued at Yakutat, Thursday, July 12, 2007

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M.,
Friday, July 13, 2007

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M., Monday,
December 31, 2007. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-12-07, issued on June 29, and establishes a bag and possession limit of three sockeye salmon in the Situk River. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 A.M. Friday, July 13 through 11:59 P.M., Monday, December 31, 2007.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-12-07 is rescinded, and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(I) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order 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.

(b)(6) In the Situk River drainage,

(I) the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length is three fish.

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Johnson
Yakutat Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for an optimum escapement goal of 50,000 sockeye salmon, with an escapement range of 30,000 to 70,000 spawners. Based on historical run timing curves of the sockeye salmon escapement for the Situk River drainage, the weir count of 7,779 sockeye salmon through June 29 indicated that restrictions in the sport fishery were necessary to meet the lower end of the escapement goal range. On June 29 Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-12-07 was issued enacting provisions that prohibited the retention of sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Situk River upstream of a regulatory marker approximately 100 yards downstream of the Situk River weir. Additionally, the daily bag and possession limit was reduced to 3 sockeye salmon per day and in possession downstream of the regulatory marker. However, based on historical run timing information, the weir count of 20,098 sockeye salmon through July 11 (the historical halfway point of the run) indicates that the Situk sockeye salmon escapement will be within the escapement goal range. As a result, a sockeye salmon bag and possession limit of three fish can be implemented without jeopardizing the biological escapement requirements. Sockeye escapement will continue to be monitored at the Situk River weir for the remainder of the run.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-12-07, which prohibited the retention of sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Situk River upstream of a regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards downstream of the Situk River weir. Additionally, the daily bag and possession limit was reduced to 3 sockeye salmon per day and in possession downstream of this regulatory marker. These regulations were in effect from 12:01 A.M., Sunday, July 1, through 11:59, P.M., December 31, 2007

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 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.