

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-B-24-08

Issued at Craig, Monday, July 28,  
2008

Effective 12:01 a.m.  
Date: Friday, August 1, 2008

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,  
August 21, 2008. Unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes fishing 100 feet upstream of the upper falls at the end of the U.S. Forest Service boardwalk to 100 feet downstream of the lower falls from August 1 until August 21 2008.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of **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possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area** (k)(8)(D) are superceded by this emergency order.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.**

(k) In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity:

(8) In Sweetwater Lake drainage,

(D) in Hatchery Creek, sport fishing is closed 100 feet upstream of the upper falls at the end of the United States Forest Service boardwalk to 100 feet downstream of the lower falls.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Steven McCurdy  
Prince of Wales Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The number of sockeye salmon counted through a weir on Hatchery Creek above the falls as of July 24, 2008 is 135. At the same date last year 3,684 fish had been passed through the weir, which was 80% of the entire escapement of sockeye salmon. The escapement of sockeye salmon is extremely low this year and every fish is needed for spawning. Observation in the lower river and at the falls by ADF&G staff indicates that sockeye salmon are still present and attempting to pass the falls. On July 9, Emergency Order 1-RS-B-19-08 closed the Hatchery Creek drainage sport fishery to the retention of sockeye salmon due to low escapement. The falls area is closed to sport fishing under 5 AAC 47. 023(8)(D) June 1 – July 31. In order to ensure that these remaining sockeye reach the spawning grounds in the upper watershed the sport fishing closure near the falls has been extended by three weeks until August 21.

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.