

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-B-21-09

Issued at Craig, Tuesday, July 28,
2009

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
August 16, 2009. Unless superseded by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 16, 2009.

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possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area (k)(8)(D)** are superseded by this emergency order.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 U. S. 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 27, 2009 is 539. At the same date the last two years, approximately 80% of the entire escapement of sockeye salmon had passed through the weir. 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. 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 16 days until August 16.

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.