

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-08-12

Issued at Yakutat, Monday, May 7, 2012

Effective 12:01 a.m.

Date: Friday, May 11, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,  
December 31, 2012. Unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage sport fishery for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, including catch and release fishing. Any king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 (b) (6) (A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01a.m. Friday, May 11 through December 31, 2011:

### **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,

(A) Fishing for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is closed. Any king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Brian Marston  
Yakutat Area Management Biologist  
Division of Sport Fish

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal of 450 to 1,050 large king salmon. The 2012 preseason forecast of the large king salmon run to the Situk River is predicted at 500 fish. In order to help achieve the escapement goal sport fishery restrictions are required.

The Department may close a sport fishery in a drainage for certain species of fish experiencing low abundance, instead of prohibiting the retention of that species, when the terminal gear and angling techniques used for that species differs from those used for other fish. This enforceable solution helps achieve the conservation of species at low abundance, and allows fisheries in the same waters on other species that are at sustainable population levels. In the Situk River Drainage, since the gear and techniques used for king salmon angling are different from those used for other species present at adequate abundances, a closure to fishing for king salmon is warranted. Therefore, the department is closing the sport fishery for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Situk River Drainage. Additionally, king salmon 20 inches or greater in

length must remain in the water, and be released immediately, if they are caught while angling for other fish.

**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.