

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-B-12-13

Issued at Craig, Monday, June 26, 2013

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2011. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Sweetwater Lake drainage, including Hatchery Creek on Prince of Wales Island to the harvest of sockeye salmon. Any sockeye salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

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 (k)(8)(C) are superseded by this emergency order.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,

(C) sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed. Sockeye salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:


Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

As of June 20th only 395 sockeye salmon have been counted through the Hatchery Creek weir operated by the U.S. Forest Service. Observations at the falls, downstream of the weir, on June 21st by U.S. Forest Service staff indicated few fish were present. An aerial survey also conducted on June 21st by ADF&G staff counted approximately 300 sockeye salmon near the mouth of the stream, below the weir. Although it is possible the run is very late this year, indications are that the escapement is extremely small and may be insufficient to sustain this stock of fish.

The Department prohibits the retention of a certain species instead of implementing a closure to fishing for a certain species when terminal gear used and/or fishing techniques for those species with conservation concerns are very similar to that used for other species present that have no conservation

issues to ensure the restriction is enforceable. Since the techniques used for sockeye salmon are similar to that used for other species present in the Sweetwater Lake Drainage (steelhead, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, coho and pink salmon) for which there are no conservation issues, a closure to fishing for sockeye would be unenforceable. Therefore the department is prohibiting the retention of sockeye salmon and requiring that sockeye caught must remain in the water and be released immediately.

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.