

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-08-14

Issued at Yakutat, Monday, May 12, 2014

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
December 31, 2014. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage sport fishery to the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. 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REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 (b) (6) (A) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Wednesday, May 14 through December 31, 2014:

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) King salmon greater than 20 inches in length may not be retained. 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:

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. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the Situk River king salmon stock failed to achieve the goal. In 2013 the goal was achieved after restrictive management measures were implemented in the sport and commercial fisheries. This trend is expected to continue for the 2014 season. The 2014 pre-season forecast is for a total run of approximately 826 king salmon. Given recent fishery and harvest trends, a run of that size is not expected to provide for the escapement goal without pre-season fishery restrictions.

Since the 2014 forecast is not expected to provide for the escapement goal given fishery and harvest trends similar to recent years, the actions implemented in this emergency order are necessary to reduce the harvest of Situk River king salmon in an effort to ensure the escapement goal is achieved.

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.