

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-04-17

Issued at: Yakutat, Monday,
March 6, 2017

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Monday, May 1, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
December 31, 2017. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught while fishing for other species 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REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(A) are superseded by this emergency order.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 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 1 through Sunday, December 31, 2017:

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

(b)(6) In the Situk River drainage,

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION: The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450–1,050 large king salmon. In years 2010 through 2012, and again in 2015 and 2016, the Situk River king salmon stock failed to achieve the BEG. In 2013 and 2014, the goal was achieved after restrictive management measures were implemented in the sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. The 2017 preseason forecast estimated a total run of approximately 500 large king salmon. Given recent harvest trends, and small escapements, a run of that size in the Situk River is not expected to achieve the escapement goal without preseason king salmon fishery restrictions. Therefore it is warranted to close the Situk River to sport fishing for king salmon.

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.