

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-25-17

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, July 24,
2017.

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2017

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December 31, 2017 unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Situk River from three fish per day and six in possession to six fish per day and 12 in possession.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 (b)(8) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 25 through 11:59 p.m. 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)(8) in the Lost River and Ahrnklin River and all drainages flowing into or between the Lost River and Ahrnklin River, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon is a bag limit of three fish and a possession limit of six fish, except that in the Situk River the bag limit is six fish and a possession limit of 12 fish.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt Catterson
Sitka Area Assistant Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The escapement goal range for sockeye salmon in the Situk River is 30,000 to 70,000 fish. As of July 19, 2017, over 61,000 sockeye salmon have been counted through the Situk River weir. Average run timing data for sockeye salmon into the Situk River indicates that 25% of the run is still to come, and the upper bound of the escapement goal is projected to be exceeded. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003 (2)(A), the department has emergency order authority to increase sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to exceed the escapement goal and the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the goal range. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Situk River sport fishery.

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 110024, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.