

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-25-18

Issued at: Yakutat, Monday, August
13, 2018.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday,
Date: August 16, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,
December 31, 2018 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order extends the closure of the Situk, Lost, and Ahrnklin River drainages to all sport fishing for sockeye salmon. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for sockeye salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. Sockeye salmon may not be retained or possessed; sockeye salmon caught incidentally 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REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 16 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, December 31, 2018:

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, sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed. Sockeye 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:

Matt Catterson
Sitka Area Assistant Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 30,000-70,000 sockeye salmon. As of August 14, 2018, 25,332 sockeye salmon have been counted through the Situk River weir. Average run timing data for sockeye salmon on the Situk River indicates that approximately 100% of the run should be in the river by August 14. Given the low numbers of sockeye salmon that returned to the Situk River, the BEG will not be achieved. This action is warranted to conserve sockeye salmon present in the Situk, Lost, and Ahrnklin Rivers.

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.