

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-08-19

Issued at Yakutat, Monday, April 22,
2019.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday,
Date: May 1, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2019 unless superseded by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REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(A) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Wednesday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019:

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;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt Catterson
Yakutat Area Biologist
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, 2016, and 2018, the Situk River king salmon stock failed to achieve the BEG. In 2013, 2014, and 2017, the goal was achieved after restrictive management measures were implemented in the sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. The 2019 preseason forecast has estimated a total run of approximately 300 large king salmon. Given recent small escapements and harvest trends, the BEG is not expected to be achieved 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 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.