SPORT FISHING Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT **OF FISH & GAME**

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-20-21 **Issued at:** Yakutat, Monday, July 19,

2021.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, **Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 20, 2021 Date:

December 31, 2021 unless superseded by

subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-07-21 issued on April 15, 2021. This emergency order prohibits retention of king salmon in the Situk River sport fishery upstream of the Situk River weir and establishes a nonresident annual limit for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, of two fish for the Situk River. The retention of king salmon is allowed below the weir under existing regulations.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023. (b)(6)(A) are superseded and 5 AAC 47.023. (b)(6)(F) are added by this emergency order. The following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 20 through Friday, December 31, 2021:

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) the nonresident annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is two fish;

(F) king salmon may not be possessed or retained upstream of the Situk River weir. King salmon caught upstream of the Situk River weir must not be removed from water and must be released immediately;

> Commissioner By delegation to:

> > Jason Pawluk Area Management Biologist Division of Sport Fish

Doug Vincent-Lang

JUSTIFICATION: The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal of 450 to 1,050 large king salmon. The Situk River weir count through July 18 is 923 large king salmon, which is within the escapement goal range. Typically, by this date approximately 80% of the king salmon run has passed the Situk River weir. Allowing sport harvest of king salmon below the Situk River weir for the remainder of the season will increase harvest opportunity for sport anglers and will not put achievement of the escapement goal in jeopardy.

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PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-KS-H-07-21, issued April 15, 2021, is rescinded by this emergency order.

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.