

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-20-26

Issued at: Yakutat, Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 11, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 15, 2026 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the area of the Situk River closed to all sport fishing to protect staging king salmon by relocating the ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 2,100 feet downstream of the department's fish counting weir located at river mile 1.8.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(F) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 11, 2026, through Saturday, August 15, 2026:

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

(b)(6)(F) the waters from ADF&G regulatory markers 300 feet upstream of the ADF&G fish counting weir located at river mile 1.8 downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 2,100 feet downstream of the weir, are closed to sport fishing.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jason Pawluk
Yakutat Area Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large king salmon, with a management target of 730 large king salmon. As of July 8, 2026, 100 large king salmon have been counted through the Situk River weir, with approximately 55% of the run through the weir using historical run-timing. Given the low numbers of king salmon returning to the Situk River, additional protections are warranted. 5 AAC 47.030(f) allows the department to close an area around a fish weir to sport fishing in order to provide uninterrupted passage for fish and minimize vulnerability of king salmon to sport fishing. Closing a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing is necessary to protect king salmon staging in several pools downstream of the weir from incidental hooking while fishing for sockeye 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.