

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

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

Issued at: Yakutat, Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 16, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2026 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order extends the sport fishing closure in the Situk River from department markers located 50 yards upstream of the Nine Mile Bridge, downstream to department markers located 50 yards downstream of the bridge, from Sunday, August 16, through Monday, August 31.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 16 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2026:

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,

(D) sport fishing is closed within 50 yards of the Nine Mile Bridge on Forest Highway 10 from June 15 – August 31 unless 1,050 king salmon three ocean years of age or older have passed the Situk River weir;

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 450-1,050 large king salmon. In 2008, 2010 through 2012, and again in 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2023 the Situk River king salmon stock did not achieve the BEG. In 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019-2022, 2024, and 2025 the goal was achieved after restrictive management measures were implemented in the sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. In 2026 only 219 large king salmon migrated past the weir through August 11, falling short of the goal. Staff have conducted multiple surveys of the river near the Nine Mile bridge in the last week and concluded that the majority of large king salmon in the river are holding in the current closure area. Current water levels in the Situk River are near record lows and there is little to no precipitation forecast in the long-term forecast. In order to protect king salmon, an extension of the Nine Mile Bridge closure is warranted.

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.