

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-20-18

Issued at: Yakutat, Tuesday, July 10,
2018.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday,
Date: July 12, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
August 15, 2018 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes the Situk, Lost, and Ahrnklin River drainages to 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.

Additionally, this emergency order increases the area of the Situk River closed to all sport fishing to protect staging sockeye and 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REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 (b)(6)(F) are added, and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) are superseded by this emergency order.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, July 12 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 15, 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)(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.

(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
Yakutat Area 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 July 10, 2018, 5,264 sockeye salmon have been counted through the Situk River weir. Average run timing data for sockeye salmon on the Situk River indicates that approximately 50% of the run should be in the river by July 10. Given the low numbers of sockeye salmon returning to the Situk River, the BEG is not expected to be achieved. These actions are warranted to conserve Situk, Lost, and Ahrnklin River sockeye salmon and Situk River king salmon.

5 AAC 75.050(a) 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 salmon to sport fishing. Closing a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing is necessary to protect sockeye and king salmon staging in several pools downstream of the weir from incidental hooking.

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.