

PROPOSAL 155

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.

Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) is amended to read:

...

[IN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER AND ALL DRAINAGES FLOWING INTO OR BETWEEN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SOCKEYE SALMON IS A BAG LIMIT OF THREE FISH AND A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.] **repealed / / ;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2009, the Board of Fisheries reduced the bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary from six per day, twelve in possession, to three per day, six in possession. In the 15 years since 2009, the Situk River has exceeded the upper end of its escapement goal (30,000 – 70,000) in 10 of those years. In 9 of the 10 years the escapement goal was exceeded, emergency order authority was used to increase the bag and possession limit to six fish per day, twelve in possession on an average date of July 11 when approximately 54% of the run has passed the Situk River weir. Increasing the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary would aid the department in managing the sockeye salmon to within levels of the escapement goal range of 30,000 – 70,000 by starting the season at a higher harvest rate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-175)
