

HOUSE BILL NO. 426

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/17/96

Referred: State Affairs, House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act approving an interim classification by the commissioner of natural
2 resources closing certain land within the Situk River system to new mineral
3 entry; and providing for an effective date."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to approve the interim classification
6 contained in Mineral Closing Order No. 711, issued by the commissioner of natural resources
7 to close shoreland and tideland underlying the Situk River and associated lakes and estuaries
8 to new mineral entry. The legislature finds that (1) the Situk River system supports
9 significant commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries used by setnetters in the
10 Yakataga area; (2) the system is a significant sport fishery for wild king, sockeye, coho, and
11 pink salmon, and Dolly Varden/char; and (3) the system is the most important fishery in
12 Southeast Alaska for steelhead trout. The legislature further finds that permanent closure of
13 the state-owned subsurface estate of the river system to new mineral entry will help protect
14 fish habitat that is essential to maintain the productivity of the system's commercial, sport,

1 subsistence, and personal use fisheries.

2 * **Sec. 2.** Under AS 38.05.300(c), and subject to existing valid rights, the state-owned land
3 underlying the following waterbodies, totaling approximately 2,797 acres, is permanently
4 closed to new mineral entry:

5 (1) Mountain Lake, within Township 26 South, Range 36 East, Copper River
6 Meridian, Sections 8, 17, and 20, containing approximately 205 acres;

7 (2) an unnamed river between Mountain Lake and Situk Lake, within
8 Township 26 South, Range 36 East, Copper River Meridian, Sections 20, 29, and 30,
9 containing approximately 20 acres;

10 (3) Situk Lake, within Township 26 South, Range 35 East, Copper River
11 Meridian, Sections 13, 24, and 25; and Township 26 South, Range 36 East, Copper River
12 Meridian, Sections 19 and 30, containing approximately 1,000 acres;

13 (4) the Situk River below Situk Lake, within Township 26 South, Range 35
14 East, Copper River Meridian, Sections 25, 26, and 35; Township 27 South, Range 35 East,
15 Copper River Meridian, Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 29, and 32; Township 28 South,
16 Range 34 East, Copper River Meridian, Sections 24, 25, and 36; and Township 28 South,
17 Range 35 East, Copper River Meridian, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, and 19, containing
18 approximately 745 acres; and

19 (5) Situk Lagoon, within Township 28 South, Range 34 East, Copper River
20 Meridian, Section 36; Township 28 South, Range 35 East, Copper River Meridian, Section 31;
21 Township 29 South, Range 34 East, Copper River Meridian, Section 5; and Township 29
22 South, Range 35 East, Copper River Meridian, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, and 11, containing
23 approximately 827 acres.

24 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).