

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SHR-E-02-23

Issued at: Juneau, Monday,
December 19, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday,
January 1, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
December 31, 2023 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for shrimp in the Southeast Alaska salt waters of the Juneau area Section 11-A.

REGULATION:

Under this emergency order the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021 (e)(4) are added. The following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(e)(4) in the Juneau area Section 11-A as described in 5 AAC 33.200 (k)(1), sport fishing for shrimp is closed.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Daniel J. Teske
Juneau Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The decline in commercial shrimp fishery catch per unit of effort (CPUE) in the Juneau area Section 11-A indicated low abundance levels and resulted in the closure of the commercial fishery in July 2013. Creel census data from 2003–2007 showed the sport and personal use shrimp fishery harvest approximately equal to the commercial harvest. Closure of the sport and personal use fishery has occurred annually since July 2013 and is necessary to rebuild stocks. Tagging studies have shown spot shrimp (the primary target species in all shrimp fisheries in the area) are relatively long lived and move little as adults, rendering them vulnerable to localized depletion. Spot shrimp begin life as males and convert to females after several years. Shrimp fishermen tend to target larger, predominantly female shrimp and fishery impacts are greatest to this most reproductively significant segment of the population. The department has conducted annual surveys in Section 11-A from 2017–2021 and determined no harvestable surplus is available. Shrimp fisheries will reopen when stocks have rebounded to sustainable levels.

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, Juneau, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.