

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SHR-D-01-24

Issued at: Sitka, Wednesday,
December 13, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, January 1, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2024 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for shrimp in a portion of District 13.

REGULATION:

Under this emergency order the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(g)(9) are added. The following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Monday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

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.

(g)(9) in a portion of Hoonah Sound, north and west of a line from 57° 35.07' N. lat., 135° 33.57' W. long., to 57° 37.89' N. lat., 135° 28.65' W. long, sport fishing for shrimp is closed.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Jake Wieliczkiwicz
Sitka Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Section 13-C spot shrimp survey has been conducted annually by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from 1999 through 2014 and from 2017 through 2023. From 1999–2014 the spot shrimp population in Hoonah Sound was considered healthy and relatively stable based on survey data and commercial fishing harvests. Beginning in 2015, commercial spot shrimp harvest data indicated declining stock health. Spot shrimp surveys conducted in Hoonah Sound from 2017–2022 showed a decline in the numbers and catch rates of younger, small spot shrimp. While the 2023 survey showed a slight increase in catch rates of small spot shrimp, the values remain far below average and were the third lowest in the history of the survey. The catch rates of larger spot shrimp have remained above average since 2020.

The subsistence and sport shrimp fisheries have been closed in Hoonah Sound since March 2020. Additionally, the commercial pot shrimp fishery in Section 13-C will continue to be closed through the 2024/25 season. The continued closures of these shrimp fisheries are warranted to protect the younger age classes and the older female spot shrimp to aid in the recovery of the stock.

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.