

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 1-SHR-E-02-24

**Issued at:** Juneau, Tuesday,  
December 19, 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December 31, 2024, unless superseded by  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 the Southeast Alaska salt waters of Juneau area Section 11-A, and Tenakee Inlet.

### **REGULATION:**

Under this emergency order the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(e)(4) and 5 AAC 47.021(l) are added. The following provisions are effective 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.**

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

(l) in the waters of Tenakee Inlet west of the longitude of Corner Point at 135° 06.50' W. long., 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 are 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. The department will continue to conduct surveys in 11-A beginning in 2024. Shrimp fisheries will reopen when stocks have rebounded to sustainable levels.

The Tenakee Inlet spot shrimp stock has been annually surveyed by the department since 2000. The Tenakee Inlet commercial shrimp pot fishery was closed in 2011 based on the lowest observed catch per unit effort (CPUE) in the department's shrimp surveys since 2000. The personal use and sport fisheries

remained open in 2011; however, because CPUE in the survey declined even further in 2012, the personal use and sport shrimp fisheries were closed effective October 1, 2012. Personal use and sport shrimp pot fisheries remained closed for five years until they were reopened in December of 2017 after steadily increasing survey CPUE. Limited, two-day, commercial shrimp pot fisheries occurred in October of 2018 – 2020, and a similar opening was scheduled to occur in 2021 but was canceled due to plummeting survey CPUE and an apparent lack of small shrimp recruiting into the population. The 2022 and 2023 survey showed another substantial decline in CPUE to levels lower than what initiated the original closures in 2011 and 2012, and the lowest number of small-sized shrimp yet observed. Therefore, closure of all shrimp pot fisheries that harvest spot shrimp in this area are necessary to rebuild the population. Tenakee Inlet will continued to be monitored annually and 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.