

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-R-04-23

Issued at: Petersburg, Wednesday,
March 8, 2023.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday,
March 10, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
April 30, 2024, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order establishes areas and times when king salmon may not be retained in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan. This action is being taken to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks, implement actions specified within Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans, and meet objectives for king salmon management under the *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* and the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 33.369(d), 5 AAC 47.021(e)(2) and 5 AAC 47.021(j)(3) are superseded and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(c)(1), (2), (g)(10), (j)(7), (8), (9) and (10), (l) and (m) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 10, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, 2024:

5 AAC 33.369. District 1: Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

(d) In the waters of the Herring Bay Sportfish Terminal Harvest Area which includes the waters of Nichols Pass north of the latitude of Driest Point, Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Harbor Point, and Tongass Narrows south of the latitude of the Lewis Reef light,

(1) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(2) the resident bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through August 14.

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.

(c) In the Haines and Skagway vicinity:

(1) the waters of Chilkat Inlet, north of the ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point,

(A) are closed to king salmon sport fishing from April 1 through July 15;

(B) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from July 16 through December 31.

(2) in Section 15-A, the waters of Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Sherman Rock as described in 5 AAC 33.200(o)(1), retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through December 31.

(e) In the waters of District 11, as described in 5 AAC 33.200(k),

(2) in a year when there is no allowable catch of Taku River king salmon, in the waters north of a line from Cooper Point to the mouth of Dorothy Creek, king salmon may be taken only from July 1 — March 31;

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(10) in the waters of Section 13-C southeast of a line from Nismeni Point to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.59' N. lat., 135°22.33' W. long.,

(A) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(j) In the Ketchikan vicinity:

(3) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays between a line from Point Eva to Cactus Point and the latitude of Point Nelson (55° 18.00' N. lat.), salmon may be taken only from August 15 – March 31;

(7) in Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55° 56.04' N. lat., 131° 37.94' W. long., to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55° 54.28' N. lat., 131° 37.80' W. long., and a line from Fin Point 55° 51.26' N. lat., 131° 35.42' W. long. to Dress Point 55° 51.15' N. lat., 131° 33.75' W. long. to a line from Cactus Point to Point Eva, salmon fishing is prohibited from January 1 through December 31;

(8) in all remaining waters of District 1, as described in 5 AAC 33.200,

(A) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(B) the resident bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through August 14;

(C) the nonresident annual limit is three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 15 through August 14;

(9) in waters of District 2, as described in 5 AAC 33.200,

(A) retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(10) in West Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay at 55° 56.04' N. lat., 131° 37.94' W. long. to the northern tip of Hassler Island at 55° 54.28' N. lat., 131° 37.80' W. long., and a line from Fin Point at 55° 51.26' N. lat., 131° 35.42' W. long. to Dress Point at 55° 51.15' N. lat., 131° 33.75' W. long., and to the south by a line from Indian Point at 55° 36.87' N. lat., 131° 42.07' W. long. to Mike Point at 55° 37.25' N. lat., 131° 52.74' W. long.; and in the waters of southern Revillagigedo Channel enclosed from a line from Lucky Point at 55° 12.62' N. lat., 131° 16.18' W. long., to Middy Point at 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W. long., enclosed by a line from Kah Shakes Point at 55° 04.22' N lat, 130° 58.72' W long., to Point Rosen at 55° 04.74' N lat., 131° 10.87' W. long., including the waters of Boca de Quadra and continuing to the Annette Island 3,000 foot boundary at the latitude of Beaver Point at 55° 05.25' N. lat., 131° 14.57' W. long and in southeast Behm Canal from Cactus Point to Eva Point, retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through August 14;

(l) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in the waters of District 11, District 12, Sections 14-B and 14-C and Sections 15-B and 15-C as described in 5 AAC 33.200, retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(2) in the waters of Section 11-D as described in 5 AAC 33.200; sport fishing for king salmon is closed from April 1 through June 30;

(3) in the marine waters of Taku Inlet north of a line from Point Bishop to Point Greely, retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 30;

(m) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) in the waters of District 8 as described in 5 AAC 47.057(d) and a portion of District 7 in the waters of Eastern Passage west of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56° 22.19' N. lat., 132° 11.75' W. long. to a point on the mainland shore at 56° 22.76' N. lat., 132° 10.62' W. long. retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through July 14;

(2) in the waters of District 5 north of line between Point Baker and a point on the shore of Kuiu Island at 56° 20.80' N. lat., 133° 50.87' W. long., District 6, District 7 excluding the waters of Eastern Passage west of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56° 22.19' N. lat., 132° 11.75' W. long. to a point on the mainland shore at 56° 22.76' N. lat., 132° 10.62' W. long., District 9 north of line between Point Ellis and Patterson Point, and District 10 as described in 5 AAC 33.200, retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through June 14;

(3) in the terminal waters of Anita Bay as described in 5 AAC 33.383(a), retention of king salmon is prohibited, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; any king salmon caught must be released immediately from April 1 through May 31.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Acting Commissioner

By delegation to:

Patrick Fowler
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION: Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks continue to be in a period of low productivity. Southeast Alaska king salmon escapements observed from 2016 to 2022 included levels below the lower bounds of escapement goals for many of the eleven monitored king salmon indicator systems and the trend of low production is expected to continue in 2023. During the 2022 Southeast Alaska finfish and shellfish Board of Fisheries meeting, the Northern Southeast Alaska, Stikine and Andrew Creek, and Unuk and Chickamin king salmon action plans were adopted. These action plans outline conservative management measures for all fisheries to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild stock and transboundary river king salmon. This emergency order implements the conservative management measures outlined in the king salmon action plans for the sport fishery.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-KS-R-03-23 established regional resident and nonresident king salmon bag and possession limits and nonresident annual limits for the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery for the 2023 season. Emergency Order 1-KS-R-03-23 remains unaffected outside of the conservation measures specified by this EO.

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, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.