

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-CO-E-27-23

Issued at: Juneau, Wednesday,
September 27, 2023

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

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
October 31, 2023

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the time period coho salmon fishing and snagging is closed in Gastineau Channel. The number of coho salmon returning to the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. Macaulay Salmon Hatchery is extremely low and not expected to meet broodstock goals in 2023. This emergency order closes the waters of Gastineau Channel, north of the Juneau-Douglas Bridge and south of a line between the Salmon Creek Bridge and a regulatory marker across the channel on Douglas Island, to sport fishing for coho salmon and snagging. This closure provides protection for returning coho salmon that are needed for hatchery broodstock.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(d)(5) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, October 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, October 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.

(d) In the Juneau vicinity: in the waters that are adjacent to the Juneau City and Borough road system to a distance one-quarter mile offshore:

(5) in the waters of Gastineau Channel, north of the south side of Juneau-Douglas Bridge and south of a line between the Salmon Creek Bridge and a regulatory marker across the channel on Douglas Island,

(A) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately back into the water;

(B) sport fishing for coho salmon is closed; coho salmon may not be targeted, retained or possessed;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Daniel Teske
Juneau Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The number of coho salmon that have returned to the hatchery is insufficient to meet broodstock needs. These management actions to protect coho salmon broodstock were initially established from September 1 through September 30, and are now being extended through October 31. In 2020, the water intake pipe to the hatchery broke and caused some mortality of juvenile coho salmon released that year which has caused the projected run for 2023 to be very low. Extremely low numbers of coho salmon have returned to the hatchery to date, and a low number of tagged Macaulay Hatchery coho salmon have been recovered in both the sport and commercial fisheries.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-CO-E-25-23 closed the waters of Gastineau Channel, north of the Juneau-Douglas Bridge and south of a line between Salmon Creek Bridge and a regulatory marker across on Douglas Island to sport fishing for coho salmon and extended the area in which snagging is prohibited from September 1 – 30, 2023. This closure was implemented to protect returning coho salmon needed for hatchery broodstock. This EO is superseded by EO 1-CO-E-27-23 which extends the closure and prohibition to snagging through October 31, 2023.

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