

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-D-17-23

Issued at: Sitka, Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes the saltwater area of Bear Cove to sport fishing to protect king salmon needed for broodstock at Medvejie Hatchery.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(g)(3) are superseded by this emergency order. The following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 10 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 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 Southeast Alaska Area.

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(3) all waters of Bear Cove east of a line from a point on the Baranof Island shoreline at 57° 00.63' N. lat., 135° 09.80' W. long. to a point on the Baranof shoreline at 57° 01.07' N. lat., 135° 09.93' W. long., are closed to sport fishing;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Troy Tydingco
Sitka Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon returning to Medvejie Hatchery are not expected to meet broodstock goals (4,600 fish) in 2023. Northern Southeast Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) forecast a return of 13,000 king salmon to Medvejie/Bear Cove, however, to date only a total of 32 Bear Cove king salmon have been harvested in the spring and terminal troll commercial fisheries. The commercial spring/terminal troll harvest to date is the poorest in over 10 years and this past winter troll contribution for Bear Cove releases is the lowest in nearly 40 years. Through June 5, staff at Medvejie have observed very few fish in Bear Cove with the largest school being

comprised of 4-5 fish. Typically, by now staff would be seeing schools numbering in the dozens to hundreds.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 1-KS-R-04-23 establishes areas and times when king salmon may not be retained in the vicinity of Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell and Ketchikan; these actions are being taken to reduce the harvest of Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks and meet objectives for king salmon management within the Pacific Salmon Treaty and are not affected by this emergency order. Emergency Order 1-KS-R-03-23 details the regional king salmon harvest regulations. Emergency Order 1-KS-D-17-23 will supersede the regional emergency order in Silver Bay between June 9 and July 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 99811-0024, (907) 465-4270.