

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-D-24-23

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, July 31, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in Bear Cove while sport fishing to protect broodstock needed 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REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(g)(3) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Tuesday, August 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 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) in the waters of Bear Cove:

(a) 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 the retention of king salmon while sport fishing;

(b) the Bear Cove Special Harvest Area, described as those waters of Bear Cove east of a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located on the north and south shores of Bear Cove, is closed to snagging; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jake Wieliczek
Assistant Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon returning to Medvejie Hatchery in 2023 have not yet met the broodstock goal of 4,600 fish. Northern Southeast Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) forecasted a return of 13,000 king salmon to Medvejie/Bear Cove, however, to date only approximately 2,500 king salmon have returned for broodstock.

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-24-23 will supersede the regional emergency order in Silver Bay between August 1 and August 31, 2023. Emergency Order 1-KS-D-17-23 which previously closed Bear Cove to all fishing expires on 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.