

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 1-CO-E-25-23

**Issued at:** Juneau, Tuesday, August 29, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 1, 2023

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 2023

### EXPLANATION:

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 Salmon Creek Bridge and a regulatory marker across on Douglas Island to sport fishing for coho salmon and extends the area in which snagging is prohibited. This closure provides protection for returning coho salmon which are needed for hatchery broodstock.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(d)(5) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 1 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 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 Salmon Creek Bridge and a regulatory marker across 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 taken or possessed;

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel Teske  
Juneau Area Management Biologist  
Division of Sport Fish

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In 2020, the water intake pipe to the hatchery broke and caused some mortality of juvenile coho salmon released that year and makes the projected run for 2023 very low. Early return metrics confirm this with extremely low numbers of coho salmon that have returned to the hatchery to date, and a low number of tagged Macaulay Hatchery coho salmon recovered in both the sport and commercial fisheries. This closure is necessary to provide sufficient coho salmon to meet hatchery broodstock needs.

**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, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.