

SPORT & PERSONAL USE FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-DC-H-010-08

Issued at Sitka, Thursday, May 23, 2008

Effective 12:01 A.M.
Date: Monday, May 26, 2008

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Wednesday,
December 31, 2008. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport and personal use Dungeness crab fishery in the Yakutat vicinity marine waters.

REGULATION:

The provisions of **5 AAC 47.021 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska** (b)(3), are added by this emergency order.

Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

(b) in the Yakutat vicinity; (3) in all waters northeast of a line across Yakutat Bay from Point Manby (59° 32.56'N. lat., 139° 51.95'W. long.) to Ocean Cape (59° 41.72'N. lat, 140° 18.38'W. long) sport fishing for Dungeness crab is closed from May 23, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

The provisions of **5AAC 77.612. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery (1)** are superseded by this emergency order and the following provisions are effective:

(1) waters of Yakutat Bay northeast of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape are closed from May 23, 2008 to December 31, 2008; all other waters of the Yakutat Area remain open.

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
SE Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

The most recent surveys conducted by the Department indicate the Yakutat area Dungeness crab stocks are not rebuilding following the closure of the commercial fishery in 2000. Since 2005 the Dungeness crab sport fishery, in the Yakutat vicinity, has also been closed. Estimates of sport Dungeness crab harvest, prior to 2005, also indicated a declining trend in the Yakutat area Dungeness crab stocks. Because these indications suggest that the stock is not rebuilding, the sport and personal use fishery will

continue to be closed in 2008. The subsistence fishery will remain open as managers monitor harvest in Yakutat Bay to determine if additional conservation measures are necessary.

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 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.