

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director
Division of Sport Fisheries
Israel Payton, Director

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: December 13, 2023

CONTACTS: Aaron Dupuis
Sitka Area Management Biologist
Division of Commercial Fisheries
(907) 747-6688
and
Jake Wieliczkievicz
Assistant Sitka Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fisheries
(907) 747-5355

HOONAH SOUND SUBSISTENCE AND SPORT SHRIMP FISHERIES REMAIN CLOSED

Subsistence and sport shrimp fisheries in the Hoonah Sound portion of Section 13-C **will remain closed** north and west of a line from 57°35.07' N lat, 135°33.57' W long to 57°37.89' N lat, 135°28.65' W long, from 12:01 a.m. Monday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (Figure 1).

The Section 13-C spot shrimp survey has been conducted annually by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from 1999 through 2014, and from 2017 through 2023. From 1999–2014, the spot shrimp population in Hoonah Sound was considered healthy and relatively stable based on survey data and commercial fishing harvests. Beginning in 2015, commercial spot shrimp harvest data indicated declining stock health. Spot shrimp surveys conducted in Hoonah Sound from 2017–2022 showed a decline in catch rates (lb/pot) of younger, small spot shrimp. While the 2023 survey showed a slight increase in the catch rates of small spot shrimp, the values remain far below baseline values and were the third lowest in the history of the survey. The catch rates of larger spot shrimp have remained above baseline values since 2020.

The subsistence and sport shrimp fisheries have been closed in Hoonah Sound since March of 2020. Additionally, the commercial pot shrimp fishery in Section 13-C will continue to be closed through the 2024/25 season. The continued closures of these shrimp fisheries are warranted to protect the younger age classes and the older female spot shrimp to aid in the recovery of the stock.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220

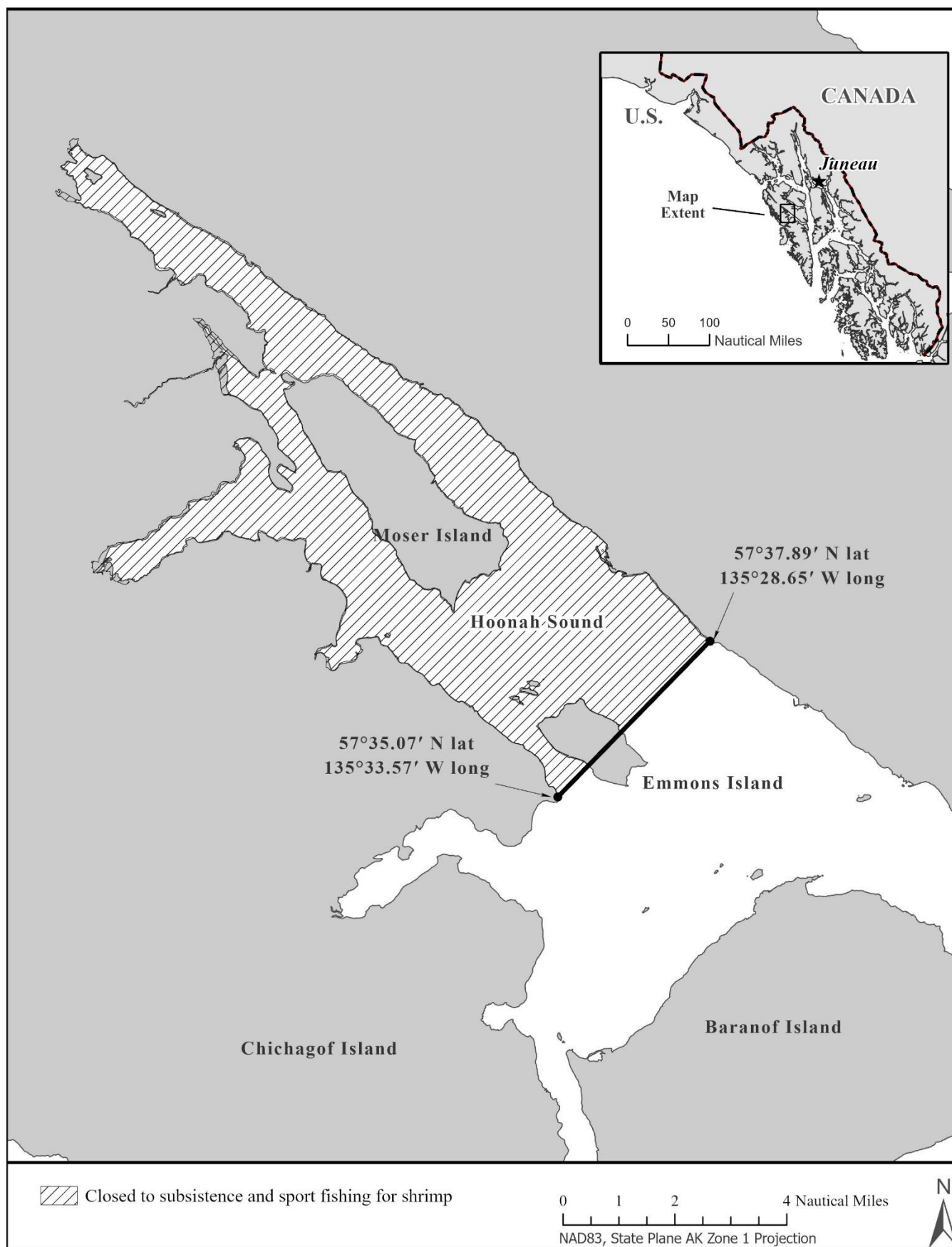


Figure 1.—Hoonah Sound subsistence and sport shrimp fisheries closure.