

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SHR-D-04-20

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, February 3, 2020.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday

Date: March 1, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for shrimp in a portion of District 13.

REGULATION:

Under this emergency order the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021 (g)(9) are added and effective from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, March 1, through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020:

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.

(g)(9) in the Sitka area Section 13 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, sport fishing for shrimp is closed.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Troy Tydingco
Sitka Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The District 13 spot shrimp survey has been conducted annually since 1999, with a brief interruption from 2015–2016. Results of the 2017–2019 surveys show that the health of the spot shrimp population in Hoonah Sound is poor. Catch rates in the survey of both small and large size class shrimp have declined since 2017; the 2019 catch rates were among the lowest for each size class in the history of the survey. Size information collected from the survey suggests that several new generations of shrimp are experiencing very poor survival. These results are similar to those observed in Tenakee Inlet, where the Department closed the fishery for seven years to prevent further harvest on a population that showed poor population health. In addition to the sport fishery, the subsistence and commercial shrimp fisheries are also being closed. Sport and commercial fisheries managers will cooperatively reopen these fisheries when monitored stocks in Hoonah Sound return to sustainable baseline levels.

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 99824, (907) 465-4270.