

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SH-E-06-21

Issued at: Douglas, Thursday,
March 25, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday,
April 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59pm Wednesday,
June 30, 2021, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes Peterson Creek, including Peterson Lagoon (Juneau road system) to sport fishing. This action is being taken to conserve steelhead in Peterson Creek (Southeast Alaska) and to meet objectives for trout management under 5 AAC 75.222 *Policy for the management of sustainable wild trout fisheries*.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(e)(1)(N) and 5 AAC 47.021(e)(5) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, April 1, 2021 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, 2021:

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the freshwaters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(e) In the Juneau vicinity

(1) in all drainages crossed by the Juneau City and Borough road system

(N) in the waters of Peterson Creek, including Peterson Lagoon, from the creek mouth at saltwater to the falls approximately 1.5 miles upstream, sport fishing is closed.

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.

(e) In the waters of District 11 as described in 5 AAC 32.200(k)

(5) in the salt water within a 200-yard radius of the mouth of Peterson Creek, sport fishing is closed.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

David Love
Juneau Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: Based on snorkel survey expansions, in years when concurrent weir counts were available, overall production of steelhead in Peterson Creek has declined in recent years. For the last 6 years (2015-2020), snorkel survey index counts conducted each spring have been below the 1997-2014 average of 28 fish (equivalent to 116 fish), when steelhead abundance in the creek appeared to be relatively stable. In 2018, 2019, and 2020 the snorkel survey counts were 6, 3 and 11 fish, respectively. The 2019 count of 3 fish was the lowest count since surveys began in 1997. Continued low escapements require this closure in order to conserve the Peterson Creek steelhead stock.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.