

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SHR-E-10-23

Issued at: Juneau, Wednesday,
March 15, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday,
March 17, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
March 31, 2024 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for shrimp in the Southeast Alaska salt waters of Tenakee Inlet.

REGULATION:

The provision of 5 AAC 47.021(n) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 17 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, March 31, 2024:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(n) In the waters of Tenakee Inlet west of the longitude of Corner Point at 135° 06.50' W long., sport fishing for shrimp is closed.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Daniel J. Teske
Juneau Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Tenakee Inlet spot shrimp stock has been annually surveyed by the department since 2000. The Tenakee Inlet commercial pot shrimp fishery was closed in 2011 based on the lowest observed catch per unit effort (CPUE) in the department's shrimp surveys since 2000. The personal use and sport fisheries remained open in 2011; however, because CPUE in the survey declined even further in 2012, the personal use and sport shrimp fisheries were closed effective October 1, 2012. Personal use and sport shrimp pot fisheries remained closed for five years until they were reopened in December of 2017 after steadily increasing survey CPUE. Limited, two-day, commercial shrimp pot fisheries occurred in October of 2018 – 2020, and a similar opening was scheduled to occur in 2021 but was canceled due to plummeting survey CPUE and an apparent lack of small shrimp recruiting into the population. The 2022 survey showed another substantial decline in CPUE to levels lower than what initiated the original closures in 2011 and 2012, and the lowest observed number of small-sized shrimp yet observed. Therefore, closure of all shrimp pot fisheries that harvest spot shrimp in this area are necessary to rebuild the population.

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, Juneau, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.