

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-E-07-24

Issued at: Juneau, Thursday,
March 14, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday,
June 1, 2024

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August 31, 2024 unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order establishes a bag and possession limit of four king salmon with no size limit in a designated saltwater sport harvest area near Juneau. King salmon caught in the designated saltwater sport harvest area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit. This emergency order closes the waters of Gastineau Channel south of the Salmon Creek Bridge and north of regulatory markers ¼ mile south of Dupont Dock to sport fishing for king salmon and snagging is prohibited within a 300-yard radius of the Wayside Park Fishing Dock (Channel Wayside fishing dock).

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(d)(5) are superseded and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(d)(6) and AAC 47.021(n)(1) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 1 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 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.

(d) In the Juneau vicinity: in the waters that are adjacent to the Juneau City and Borough road system to a distance one-quarter mile offshore:

(5) in the waters of Gastineau Channel within a 300-yard radius of the Channel Wayside fishing dock located near the Macaulay Salmon Hatchery,

(A) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately back into the water;

(B) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed;

(6) in the waters of Gastineau Channel south of a line from the Salmon Creek Bridge across to a regulatory marker on Douglas Island and north of a line located approximately ¼ mile south of the Dupont dock and extending across Gastineau Channel between department markers,

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed, king salmon may not be taken or possessed;

(n) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in a designated saltwater sport harvest area in the vicinity of Juneau, consisting of the contiguous waters of Stephens Passage, Auke Bay, Fritz Cove and Gastineau Channel, enclosed on the west by a line running from the tip of Point Louisa to the navigational aid at the northern tip of Portland Island (58° 21.13'N. lat., 134° 45.52'W. long.) then along the eastern shore of Portland Island to its most southern point and ending on Douglas Island at the northern tip of Outer Point, and enclosed on the east by a line from the Salmon Creek Bridge to a regulatory marker located on Douglas Island and all salt waters of

Lena Cove south of a line from Pt. Lena to a regulatory marker on the mainland shore located at 58° 24.20'N. lat., 134° 45.64'W. long.,

(A) the bag and possession limit is four king salmon, no size limit;

(B) king salmon harvested in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit;

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Daniel J. Teske
Juneau Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries authorized the department to use its emergency order authority to increase sport bag and possession limits and annual limits for hatchery-produced king salmon in hatchery terminal harvest areas when escapement is expected to be in excess of the broodstock requirements. The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* authorizes the department to repeal the nonresident annual limit in hatchery terminal harvest areas. Hatchery-produced king salmon are expected to return to the salt waters near Juneau in areas where broodstock will not be collected. Therefore, the department is increasing the king salmon bag and possession limits and repealing the nonresident annual limit in the designated saltwater sport harvest area near Juneau. Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks are in a period of low productivity and conservative measures are in place to protect those fish. This increased opportunity for king salmon is restricted in time and area to avoid the incidental harvest of wild stock king salmon.

The projected return of king salmon to Macaulay Salmon Hatchery is expected to be low and therefore portions of the hatchery sport harvest area will remain closed to protect broodstock. These closures will be in Gastineau Channel and surrounding the hatchery fish ladders. Hatchery-produced king salmon returning to the Macaulay Salmon Hatchery congregate along the shoreline and in front of the hatchery and are vulnerable to harvest. This closure is necessary to ensure adequate broodstock is available to meet egg-take goals needed for future production.

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.