

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SHR-B-03-26

Issued at: Craig, Monday, January 6, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for shrimp in Kassan Bay and Skowl Arm.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(i)(6) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 7 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2026:

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.

(i) in the Prince of Wales Island vicinity,

(7) Shrimp may not be taken in the waters of Kassan Bay and Skowl Arm west of the longitude of Kasaan Point at 132°16.87' W long.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Craig Schwanke
Prince of Wales Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kasaan Bay spot shrimp stock has been surveyed by the department annually since 2011. There were steady declines in survey CPUE from 2020 through 2022. Department survey data from fall 2023 indicated a sharp decline in survey CPUE as well as a reduction in all size classes of shrimp and extremely poor recruitment of small class sizes indicating poor abundance of recruits and pre-recruits. The department's most recent shrimp pot survey in the fall of 2025 indicated further decreases in abundance, with CPUE rates being the lowest recorded since the shrimp pot surveys began in 2011 indicating that shrimp populations may not support sustainable harvest at this time.

This closure is being implemented along with closures of the personal use and commercial shrimp fisheries with the intention of allowing spot shrimp abundance in Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm to rebuild to levels that allow sustainable harvest for all user groups. This closure will remain in effect through 2026 and will be evaluated after the department's annual shrimp pot survey in the fall of 2026.

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 99811, (907) 465-4270.