

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-SHR-D-02-25

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, December 23, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2025 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport fishery for shrimp in two portions of District 13.

REGULATION:

Under this emergency order the provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(g)(9) and 5 AAC 47.021(g)(10) are added. The following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2025:

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 a portion of Hoonah Sound, 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;

(g)(10) in a portion of Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlet north and east of a line from 56°46.77' N. lat., 135°16.83' W. long. to 56°41.14' N. lat., 135°13.75' W. long., sport fishing for shrimp is closed.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Jake Wieliczekiewicz
Sitka Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Catch per unit effort data from both the commercial and subsistence fisheries in Crawfish Inlet and West Crawfish Inlet indicate declining spot shrimp stock health. The intention of this closure is to allow spot shrimp abundance to rebuild to levels that would allow sustainable harvest.

The Section 13-C spot shrimp survey has been conducted annually by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from 1999 through 2014 and from 2017 through 2024. From 1999–2014, the spot shrimp population in Hoonah Sound was considered healthy and relatively stable based on survey data and commercial fishing harvests. Beginning in 2015, commercial spot shrimp harvest data indicated declining stock health. Spot shrimp surveys conducted in Hoonah Sound from 2017–2022 showed a decline in catch rates (lb/pot) of younger, small spot shrimp. Surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024 indicate a small increase in catch rates of small spot shrimp in Hoonah Sound, while the catch rates of large spot shrimp have remained consistently high over the past five years. Analysis of size distribution data since 2022 reveals a balanced composition of shrimp class sizes, suggesting continued recovery of the Hoonah Sound spot shrimp stock.

The subsistence and sport shrimp fisheries have been closed in Hoonah Sound since March of 2020. Additionally, the commercial pot shrimp fishery in Section 13-C will continue to be closed through the 2025/26 season. The closures of these shrimp fisheries are warranted to protect the younger age classes and the older female spot shrimp to aid in the recovery of the stock.

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.