

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-CO-E-26-22

Issued at: Juneau, Tuesday,
September 13, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 15,
2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday,
September 30, 2022

EXPLANATION:

The number of coho salmon returning to the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. Macaulay Salmon Hatchery is extremely low and not expected to meet broodstock goals in 2022. This emergency order closes the waters of Gastineau Channel, north of the Juneau-Douglas Bridge and south of the Salmon Creek Bridge to sport fishing for coho salmon and extends the area in which snagging is prohibited. This closure provides protection for returning coho salmon which are needed for hatchery broodstock.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021 (d)(5) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 15 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 30, 2022:

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.

(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, north of the south side of Juneau-Douglas Bridge and south of the north side of Salmon Creek Bridge,

- (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 coho salmon is closed; coho salmon may not be taken or possessed;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Daniel Teske
Juneau Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on the extremely low numbers of coho salmon that have returned to the hatchery to date, a low number of tagged Macaulay Hatchery coho salmon recovered in both the sport and commercial fisheries, hatchery-produced coho salmon marine survivals appear to be poor this year. This closure is necessary to provide sufficient coho salmon to potentially achieve hatchery broodstock needs. This action extends the boundary of the coho closure and prohibition on snagging that was issued August 29, 2022 after returns to the hatchery rack have continued to fall below expectations.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 1-CO-E-22-22 previously closed the waters of Gastineau Channel, within a 300-yard radius of the Wayside Park Fishing Dock (Channel Wayside fishing dock) to sport fishing for coho salmon and extended the area in which snagging is prohibited, is superseded by this emergency order.

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.