

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RT-D-16-26

Issued at: Sitka, Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Effective Date: 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 6, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, June 6, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order allows the use of bait and eliminates the size limit for trout in Swan Lake (Sitka) to increase harvest opportunity for stocked rainbow trout during the Junior Trout Derby on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023(g)(11) are added by this emergency order. The following provisions are effective from 9:00 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, June 6, 2026:

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(11) in Swan Lake

(A) cutthroat /rainbow trout (in combination): bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit;

(B) the use of bait is allowed.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jake Wieliczkievicz
Sitka Area Assistant Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted 5 AAC 47.045. *Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout Management Plan* to provide additional harvest opportunities for trout in fresh waters near Southeast Alaska communities that fit specific criteria. Under the plan, the department may open, by emergency order, a season and designate one fresh water near a community to allow the use of bait, eliminate the minimum size limit for trout, and establish a bag and possession limit of two fish if that community does not have nearby fresh waters where anglers can fish for trout with bait throughout the year. Sitka meets those criteria. The plan also requires that the fresh water must be close to a community that has good road, trail, or boat access to the fresh water; and the fresh water must be landlocked or otherwise inaccessible to sea-run trout. Swan Lake meets those criteria.

Since 1985, the department has annually stocked up to 300 rainbow trout in Swan Lake to provide additional freshwater fishing opportunity in Sitka. This stocking project continues in 2026 with the release of 300 rainbow trout measuring from 6 to 12 inches into Swan Lake. The Sitka Rotary club is conducting the annual Junior Trout Derby to introduce young anglers to sport fishing on June 6. This emergency order will allow the use of bait and remove the size limit for rainbow/cutthroat trout during the Junior Trout Derby to allow young anglers additional opportunity to catch and harvest these stocked fish.

Outside of the time affected by this emergency order, regionwide regulations apply in Swan Lake near Sitka. Those regulations include a bag and possession limit for cutthroat/rainbow trout (in combination) of two fish; minimum size of 11 inches and maximum size of 22 inches. The use of bait is allowed only September 15 - November 15.

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.