

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-03-16

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, February 29,
2016.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday,
March 2, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
December 31, 2016 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order establishes sport fishing bag and possession limits for nonpelagic rockfish for both resident and nonresident anglers, requires retention of all nonpelagic rockfish caught until the bag limit is reached, and establishes annual limits for yelloweye rockfish with harvest reporting requirements for nonresident anglers. Additionally, charter vessel operators and crew members will be prohibited from retaining nonpelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

REGULATION:

The provision 5 AAC 47.020(8)(B) is superseded by this emergency order and 5 AAC 47.020(19)(A) and (B) and (C) are added. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. March 2, 2016 through 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2016:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(19) nonpelagic rockfish:

(A) in the Southeast Outside Waters: which includes all salt waters of Alaska north of the International Boundary Line at Dixon Entrance then east to 132° W. long. to Prince of Wales Island at 54°43.68' N lat., 132° W. long., then following the coast of Prince of Wales Island to the entrance of Hole in the Wall at 56° 15.57' N. lat., 133° 38.60' W. long., continuing south and west on a line to Cape Decision at 56° 00.02' N. lat., 134° 08.16' W. long., continuing north and west on a line to Cape Ommaney at 56° 09.59' N. lat., 134° 40.31' W. long. then following the outer coast of Baranof Island to Range Point at 57° 22.44' N. lat., 135° 39.40' W. long., continuing north on a line to Struya Point at 57° 22.85' N. lat., 135° 39.72' W. long., then following the outer coast of Chichagof Island to Point Adolphus at 58° 17.17' N. lat., 135° 46.97' W. long., continuing north on a line to Point Carlous at 58° 22.89' N. lat., 136° 02.21' W. long., continuing along the coastline to Cape Suckling at 144° W. long., including all remaining salt waters of the Icy Bay Subdistrict and the Southeast Outside Subdistrict as described in 5 AAC 28.105.,

- (i) all nonpelagic rockfish caught must be retained until the bag limit is reached;
- (ii) the resident bag limit is two nonpelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of four fish of which only two may be yelloweye rockfish;
- (iii) the nonresident bag limit is one nonpelagic rockfish; possession limit of two fish of which only one may be yelloweye rockfish; with an nonresident annual limit of one yelloweye rockfish;

(iv) immediately after harvesting a yelloweye rockfish nonresident anglers must record, in ink, the yelloweye rockfish harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

(v) a sport fishing guide and sport fishing guide crew member working on a chartered vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain nonpelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

(B) in the Southeast Inside Waters, which include all remaining salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Management Area not identified in (A);

(i) all nonpelagic rockfish caught must be retained until the bag limit is reached;

(ii) the resident bag limit is three nonpelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of six fish of which only two may be yelloweye rockfish;

(iii) the nonresident bag limit is two nonpelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of four fish of which only two may be yelloweye rockfish; with an nonresident annual limit of two yelloweye rockfish;

(iv) immediately after harvesting a yelloweye rockfish nonresident anglers must record, in ink, all yelloweye rockfish harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

(v) a sport fishing guide and sport fishing guide crew member working on a chartered vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain nonpelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

(C) The Southeast Alaska area nonresident yelloweye rockfish annual limit is three, not more than two of which may be taken from the Southeast Inside Waters and not more than one can be taken from Southeast Outside Waters.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries allocated 16% of the allowable catch of demersal shelf rockfish to the sport fishery and established management provisions (5 AAC 47.065) to be used by the department to manage the sport fishery within the allocation. The measures implemented by this emergency order are intended to provide harvest opportunity while limiting the total mortality of nonpelagic rockfish to within the sport allocation and thereby ensure the sustainability of demersal shelf rockfish populations in the Southeast Alaska Area.

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.