

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-13-23

Issued at: at Petersburg, Thursday,
April 13, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
November 30, 2023 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies lingcod sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and establishes minimum and maximum size limits and annual limits for lingcod in the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(7) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 16 to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, November 30, 2023:

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

(7) lingcod: may be taken from May 16 – November 30, as follows:

(A) in the Yakutat vicinity waters between 139° and 144° W. long.:

- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
- (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, no size limit; annual limit of two lingcod;
- (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;

(B) in the waters of Northern Southeast Alaska north of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continuing to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, west of the longitude of the Cape Decision Light and north of 56° N. lat., and bound to the west by 139° W. long.:

- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
- (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 35 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
- (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;

(C) in waters of Southern Southeast Alaska along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., and waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 137° W. long. and the

remaining inside waters of Southern Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continued to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, east of the longitude of the Cape Decision:

- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
- (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 40 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 40 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
- (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Patrick Fowler
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) modified sport fishing regulations for lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to widespread decline in abundance as indicated in the directed lingcod commercial fishery. The board established a guideline harvest level (GHL) approach for sport and commercial fisheries management of lingcod in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160(e)). The GHL was allocated between sport and commercial users by the board for seven fishery management areas (5 AAC 28.165). The board also expanded the department's authority to modify regulations to achieve the lingcod allocation for the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.060).

Since 2000 the department has implemented regulations annually by emergency order, including minimum length and slot limits, reduced bag and possession limits, annual limits, nonretention of fish by charter operators and crew members, and reduced seasons. When compared to the 2022 season, the slot limit for nonresident anglers has been reduced in the Southern Southeast outside, Southern Southeast inside, Northern Southeast outside, and Central Southeast outside sections. These actions are being taken to keep the sport fishery within its allocation and under the authority granted to the department within the *Lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management* (5 AAC 47.060).

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.