

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-D-04-24

Issued at: Sitka, February 22, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 1, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2024, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the sport bag limit of pelagic rockfish in the Sitka vicinity for nonresidents from three to two fish per day and six to four fish in possession, and for residents from five fish to four fish per day and 10 fish to eight fish in possession in order to reduce the harvest of pelagic rockfish.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(g)(8) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

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) In the Sitka vicinity:

(8) in the waters of Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, as described in 5 AAC 28.105(a)(4)(B),

(A) the bag limit for nonresidents for pelagic rockfish is two fish, possession limit four fish, no size limit,

(B) the bag limit for residents for pelagic rockfish is four fish, possession limit eight fish, no size limit.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Troy Tydingco
Sitka Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The pelagic rockfish harvest in the Sitka Area has gradually increased from 20,000 fish in 2009 to over 70,000 fish in 2022 despite restrictions during 2016 and 2018 designed to reduce harvest. Although there is limited stock information, analysis of the length composition of the sport harvest shows a slight, but gradual decline in average weight since 2006 indicating a possible change in the population structure. This may be a result of high harvest. A reduction in bag limit from three to two pelagic rockfish for nonresidents and a reduction from five fish to four fish for residents is predicted to reduce harvest to a level similar to that seen in 2011 through 2013. This action is being taken in the interest of conservative management until better stock information is available.

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.