

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-01-06

Issued at Juneau, Friday May 5, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Tuesday,  
May 16, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Thursday,  
November 30, 2006 unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits and, for non-resident and guided anglers only, establishes minimum and maximum size limits, and annual limits for lingcod in Southeast Alaska.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (7) are superseded by this emergency order, which will be in effect from May 16, 2006 to November 30, 2006. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

#### **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:

- (A) In northern Southeast Alaska north of a line from Beacon Point to Wood Point, from Point Camden to Salt Point Light, west of the longitude of the Cape Decision Light, north of 56° N. lat., and east of 137° longitude; lingcod may be taken from May 16 – June 15 and from August 16 – November 30 as follows:
  - i. Non-guided Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
  - ii. Nonresidents and guided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 40-inch maximum size limit,
  - iii. Nonresident annual limit of two fish, harvest record is required.
  
- (B) In waters along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., west of 131° 40' W. long., and south of 54° 50' N. lat.; lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:
  - i. Non-guided Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
  - ii. Nonresidents and guided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 40-inch maximum size limit,
  - iii. Nonresident annual limit of two fish, harvest record is required.
  
- (C) In remaining waters of Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:
  - i. bag and possession limit of 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit,
  - ii. Nonresident annual limit of two fish, harvest record is required.
  
- (D) In all waters between the longitude of Cape Spencer and 137° longitude, lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:

- i. Non-guided Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
- ii. Nonresidents and guided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, 32-inch minimum and 42-inch maximum size limit.

McKie Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

---

Charles O. Swanton  
Regional Management Coordinator  
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In February 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified sport fisheries management of lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to indications of a widespread decline in abundance. The Board established a guideline harvest level (GHL) approach for sport and commercial fisheries management in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160 (e)). The GHL was purposefully set lower than recent harvests and allocated between sport and commercial user for seven fisheries 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).

From 2001 through 2005, the department has implemented regulations by emergency order including minimum length and slot limits, modified seasons, and gear restrictions. These regulations have been effective at maintaining the sport fishery harvest below the GHL during the 2001-2003 seasons. However, in 2004 and 2005, the lingcod GHL was exceeded in the CSEO/NSEO, SSEO, SSEI, and NSEI areas, and there appears to be an increasing trend. We believe the last two years' harvests are due to increased effort and efficiency as well as resident charter operators and crewmembers retaining larger lingcod.

To offset the increased harvest, the sport fishery harvest must be decreased by approximately 30% in 2006. The length limits, seasons and gear restrictions will be implemented as in previous years and additionally a 2-fish annual limit for nonresidents will be implemented in 2006.

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 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.