

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-01-07

Issued at Juneau, Friday, April 6,
2007.

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Wednesday,
May 16, 2007.

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Friday,
November 30, 2007 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies lingcod 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 the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (7), and 5 AAC 47.021 (g)(1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order, which will be in effect from May 16, 2007 to November 30, 2007. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are in effect:

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 the waters of northern Southeast Alaska waters north of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continued 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 137° W. long., 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, 1 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 35-inch maximum size limit, with an annual limit of one lingcod;
 - iii. immediately after landing a lingcod the nonresident or guided angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
- (B) In waters along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., and the waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 137° W. long; 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, 1 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 35-inch maximum size limit, with an annual limit of one lingcod;
 - iii. immediately after landing a lingcod the nonresident or guided angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

- (C) In the remaining inside waters of Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg 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, 1 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 40-inch maximum size limit, with an annual limit of one lingcod;
 - iii. immediately after landing a lingcod the nonresident or guided angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
- (D) In all waters of Southeast Alaska between 144° and 137° W. long., 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.

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons and bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.,

(A) 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, 1 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 35-inch maximum size limit, with an annual limit of one lingcod;
- iii. immediately after landing a lingcod the nonresident or guided angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record.

Denby Lloyd
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Charles O. Swanton
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries modified sport fisheries regulations for lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to indications in the directed lingcod commercial fishery of a widespread decline in abundance. 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 purposefully set lower than recent harvests and allocated between sport and commercial users 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).

Between 2001 through 2006, the department has implemented regulations by emergency order including minimum length and slot limits, reduced bag and possession limits, annual limits, and reduced seasons. These regulations were effective at maintaining the sport fishery harvest within the GHL during the 2001-2003 seasons. However, from 2004 to 2006, the lingcod GHL was exceeded in the CSEO/NSEO, SSEOC, SSEI, and NSEI areas, with an apparent increasing trend in harvest. Creel survey program and logbook data indicates the last two years of increased harvests are due to increased effort and efficiency as well as retention of larger lingcod by resident charter operators and crew members. Non-retention of fish by charter operators and crew members was implemented by emergency order during the 2006 season, however further harvest reduction is needed to bring harvests into compliance with the sport fish GHL in 2007.

To offset increased harvest, sport fishery harvest must be decreased by approximately 35% in 2007 to remain below the GHL.

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 99824, (907) 465-4270.