

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-R-3-03-09

Issued at: Anchorage, Wednesday, March 11,
2009

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., May 23, 2009

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., September 1,
2009, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

From May 23, 2009, through September 1, 2009, a sport fishing guide or sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southcentral Alaska may not retain any species of fish while paying clients are on board the vessel. The maximum number of lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in guided sport fishing in salt waters may not exceed the number of paying clients on board the vessel. This prohibition will be in effect for all salt waters west of the longitude of Cape Suckling, including Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet, and the waters of the Kodiak Island area north of a line running from Cape Aklek on the Alaska Peninsula to Cape Ikolik on the western shore of Kodiak Island; and north and east of a line running from Cape Trinity to Cape Sitkinak. All of these provisions become effective beginning 12:01 a.m., May 23, 2009, through 11:59 p.m., September 1, 2009.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023 (9), 5 AAC 58.022 (b) (4), 5 AAC 64.022 (b) (7), and 5 AAC 65.022 (d) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., May 23, 2009, through 11:59 p.m., September 1, 2009:

5 AAC 55.023 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA

(9) A sport fishing guide and sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of the Prince William Sound Area may not retain fish while paying clients are on board the vessel. The maximum number of lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in guided sport fishing in salt waters may not exceed the number of paying clients on board the vessel.

5 AAC 58.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COOK INLET — RESURRECTION BAY SALTWATER AREA

(b)(4) A sport fishing guide and sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area may not retain fish while paying clients are on board the vessel. The maximum number of lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in guided sport fishing in salt waters may not exceed the number of paying clients on board the vessel.

5 AAC 64.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KODIAK AREA

(b)(7) A sport fishing guide and sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of the Kodiak Area north of a line running from Cape Aklek on the Alaska Peninsula to Cape Ikolik on the western shore of Kodiak Island; and north and east of a line running from Cape Trinity to Cape Sitkinak may not retain fish while paying clients are on board the vessel. The maximum number of lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in guided sport fishing in salt waters may not exceed the number of paying clients on board the vessel.

5 AAC 65.022 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR METHODS AND MEANS IN THE ALASKA PENINSULA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

(d) A sport fishing guide and sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area north of a line running from Cape Aklek on the Alaska Peninsula to Cape Ikolik on the western shore of Kodiak Island may not retain fish while paying clients are on board the vessel. The maximum number of lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in guided sport fishing in salt waters may not exceed the number of paying clients on board the vessel.

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matt G. Miller,
Regional Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Pacific halibut Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for charter boat anglers within Southcentral Alaska was exceeded each of the years 2004-2007. The 2008 charter harvest in Area 3A (Kodiak to Cape Spencer) was projected to be less than the 3.65 M lb GHL, due in part to a Department emergency order issued in 2008 prohibiting retention of halibut and other fish by guides and crew members in Southcentral Alaska during a portion of the season. In October 2008 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council approved a catch-sharing plan to allocate halibut between charter and commercial fisheries. This catch-sharing plan will eventually replace the current GHL management. In the meantime, the Council chose not to take action to implement additional management measures in Area 3A to keep charter harvest within the GHL, conditional on a commitment from the Department to continue to prohibit guide and crew harvest. This action to prohibit retention of fish by guide and crew is issued under the

authority granted to the Department by the Board of Fisheries to regulate harvests within established allocation guidelines (5 AAC 75.003(4)).

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Kodiak Area Office; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Protection Kodiak Office.