

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-01-12

Issued at Sitka, Thursday, March 15,
2012.

Effective 12:01 A.M. Friday,
Date: March 16, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Monday,
December 31, 2012 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order establishes sport fishing bag and possession limits for non-pelagic rockfish for both resident and nonresident anglers, requires retention of all non-pelagic rockfish caught until the bag limit is reached, and establishes annual limits with harvest reporting requirements for nonresident anglers. Additionally, charter vessel operators and crew members will be prohibited from retaining non-pelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 are amended as follows: 5 AAC 47.020(19) is added, 5 AAC 47.020(8)(B) is rescinded. 5AAC 47.0021(g)(1)(B) and (j)(1) are also rescinded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01A.M. March 16, 2012 through 11:59 P.M. December 31, 2012:

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

(19) non-pelagic rockfish:

(A) in the Southeast Outside Waters: which includes all salt waters of Alaska north of the International Boundary Line at Dixon Entrance then east to 132° W. long. to Prince of Wales Island at 54°43.68' N lat., 132° W. long., then following the coast of Prince of Wales Island to the entrance of Hole in the Wall at 56° 15.57' N. lat., 133° 38.60' W. long., continuing south and west on a line to Cape Decision at 56° 00.02' N. lat., 134° 08.16' W. long., continuing north and west on a line to Cape Ommaney at 56° 09.59' N. lat., 134° 40.31' W. long. then following the outer coast of Baranof Island to Range Point at 57° 22.44' N. lat., 135° 39.40' W. long., continuing north on a line to Struya Point at 57° 22.85' N. lat., 135° 39.72' W. long., then following the outer coast of Chichagof Island to Point Adolphus at 58° 17.17' N. lat., 135° 46.97' W. long., continuing north on a line to Point Carlous at 58° 22.89' N. lat., 136° 02.21' W. long., continuing along the coastline to Cape Suckling at 144° W. long., including all remaining salt waters of the Icy Bay Subdistrict and the Southeast Outside Subdistrict as described in 5 AAC 28.105.,

- (i) all non-pelagic rockfish caught must be retained until the bag limit is reached;
- (ii) the resident bag limit is two non-pelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of four fish of which only two may be yelloweye rockfish;
- (iii) the nonresident bag limit is two non-pelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of four fish of which only one may be yelloweye rockfish; with an annual limit of one yelloweye rockfish;

(iv) immediately after harvesting a yelloweye rockfish nonresident anglers must record, in ink, all yelloweye rockfish harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

(v) a sport fishing guide and sport fishing guide crew member working on a chartered vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain non-pelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

(B) in the Southeast Inside Waters, which include all remaining salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Management Area not identified in (A);

(i) all non-pelagic rockfish caught must be retained until the bag limit is reached;

(ii) the resident bag limit is three non-pelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of six fish of which only two may be yelloweye rockfish;

(iii) the nonresident bag limit is two non-pelagic rockfish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; possession limit of four fish of which only one may be a yelloweye rockfish; with an annual limit of two yelloweye rockfish;

(iv) immediately after harvesting a yelloweye rockfish nonresident anglers must record, in ink, all yelloweye rockfish harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

(v) a sport fishing guide and sport fishing guide crew member working on a chartered vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain non-pelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries allocated 16% of the allowable catch of demersal shelf rockfish to the sport fishery and established management provisions (5 AAC 47.065) to be used by the department to manage the sport fishery within the allocation. The measures being imposed during 2012 are intended to limit total mortality of non-pelagic rockfish within the sport allocation and ensure the sustainability of demersal shelf rockfish populations in the Southeast Alaska Area.

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 99824, (907) 465-4270.