SPORT FISHING
Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-11-15

Issued at Sitka, Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, November 30, 2015 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:
This emergency order modifies lingcod sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and 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The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (7), and 5 AAC 47.021 (g) (1) (A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions will be in effect from May 16, 2015 to November 30, 2015:

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: may be taken from May 16 – November 30 as follows:

(A) In the Yakutat Area waters between 139° and 144° W. long.:

i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 45 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, only one of which may be 55 inches or greater in length;
iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

(B) In the waters of northern Southeast Alaska north of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continuing 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 139° W. long.:

i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;

ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 35 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;

iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

(C) In waters along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., and waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 137° W. long.:

i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;

ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 45 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 45 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;

iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

(D) In the remaining inside waters of Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continued to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, east of the longitude of the Cape Decision:

i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;

ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 45 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length with an annual limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 45 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;

iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;

iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Chadwick

Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified sport fishing regulations for lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to widespread decline in abundance as indicated in the directed lingcod commercial fishery. 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 allocated between sport and commercial users by the Board for seven fishery 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.).

Since 2000, the department has implemented regulations annually, by emergency order, including minimum length and slot limits, reduced bag and possession limits, annual limits, non-retention of fish by charter operators and crew members, and reduced seasons. These regulations have been effective at maintaining the sport fishery lingcod harvest near or below allocations in all of the management areas. Sport fishing provisions established by this emergency order are identical to lingcod regulations implemented by emergency order during 2014. These actions are being taken under the authority granted to the department by the Board of Fisheries within the lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management (5 AAC 47.060).

This action is necessary to ensure that sport harvests of lingcod stay within the regulatory harvest allocations to the sport fishery.

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.