

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on behalf of board member Robert Ruffner

December 3, 2017

Substitute regulatory language for Proposal 3.

5 AAC 55.022 is amended to read:

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(9) rockfish:

(A) may be taken from **January 1 – December 31** [MAY 1 – SEPTEMBER 15]; bag limit of four fish; possession limit of eight fish, of which only **one** [TWO] per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish **as defined in 5 AAC 75.995**; [THE FIRST TWO NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH CAUGHT MUST BE RETAINED AND BECOME PART OF THE BAG LIMIT OF THE PERSON ORIGINALLY HOOKING THE FISH;] no size limit;

(B) **Repealed / /2018**; [MAY BE TAKEN FROM SEPTEMBER 16 – APRIL 30; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF EIGHT FISH, OF WHICH ONLY TWO PER DAY AND IN POSSESSION MAY BE NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH; THE FIRST TWO NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH CAUGHT MUST BE RETAINED AND BECOME PART OF THE BAG LIMIT OF THE PERSON ORIGINALLY HOOKING THE FISH; NO SIZE LIMIT.]

(x) Beginning January 1, 2019, a person sport fishing from a charter vessel when releasing a species of rockfish shall immediately use a deep water release mechanism to return the fish to the depth it was hooked or to a depth of at least 100 feet. In this subsection, “deep water release mechanism” means a device designed to return a rockfish to the depth of capture, or to a specified depth.