Southeast Alaska Sport Fishery
Overview
RC 3 - Tab 19

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Presentation Outline

- Regional Sport Fishery Regulations
- King Salmon Sport Fishery Management
- Rockfish Sport Fishery Management
Sport Fishing

“Sport fishing” means the taking of or attempting to take for personal use, and not for sale or barter, any freshwater, marine, or anadromous fish by hook and line held in the hand or by hook and line with the line attached to a pole or rod which is held in the hand or closely attended, or by other means defined by the Board of Fisheries; (16.05.940.(31)).
Southeast Alaska

Southeast Alaska Sport Fish Management Areas

- Yakutat Area
- Haines-Skagway Area
- Juneau-Glacier Bay Area
- Sitka Area
- Petersburg-Wrangell Area
- Ketchikan Area
- Prince of Wales Island Area

U.S.-Canada Border

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Southeast Alaska Regional Sport Fish Regulations

- King salmon fishing is closed in the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska (except Yakutat Area).

- Bait is allowed in fresh water September 15–November 15.

- Sport fishing may be conducted only by the use of a single line per angler, and not more than six lines may be fished from a vessel.

- The maximum number of fishing lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in sport fishing charter activities is equal to the number of paying clients on board the vessel.

- The king salmon, demersal shelf rockfish, and lingcod sport fisheries are managed for allocations.
Southeast Alaska and Statewide Effort — Average Number of Angler-days 2007–2016

Total Statewide Effort (Angler-days) by Region

- 1,474,034 Southeast Total
- 514,396 Southcentral Total
- 170,397 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Total

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Southeast Alaska Sport Fishery Effort by Residency Number of Angler-days 1996–2016
Southeast Alaska and Statewide Effort – Number of Anglers 2007–2016
Southeast Salmon Sport Harvest

Year

Number of Fish Harvested

- Sockeye
- Chum
- King
- Pink
- Coho

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Sockeye Salmon Proposals

- 136
- 195
- 196
- 204
Southeast Sockeye Salmon Sport Harvest

Average Sport Fish Sockeye Harvest by SWHS Area and Water Type (2007-2016)

- Sockeye Salmon Harvest
- Freshwater
- Saltwater

Locations shown:
- Yakutat
- Glacier Bay
- Haines/Skagway
- Juneau
- Petersburg/Wrangell
- Sitka
- Prince of Wales

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Southeast Sockeye Salmon Sport Harvest
King Salmon Proposals

- 132
- 137
- 138
- 148
- 197
King Salmon Management

- General Harvest Ceiling (All-Gear Harvest Limit)
  Regs - 5 AAC 29.060

- Gear-specific allocations - 5 AAC 29.060
  - Set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon
  - Purse seine fishery: 4.3% of the annual harvest ceiling
  - Drift gillnet fishery: 2.9% of the annual harvest ceiling
  - After the net fisheries allocation is subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling, the remaining harvest ceiling is allocated 80% troll and 20% sport
King Salmon Management

- Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan
  - 5 AAC 47.055
    - Reinforces general harvest ceiling regulations by adopting the 20% sport allocation as a management objective
Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan - Objectives

1. Attain an average harvest of 20% of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

2. Allow uninterrupted marine sport fishing for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;

3. Minimize restrictions on residents;

4. Provide stability to the sport fishery by eliminating inseason regulatory changes, except those needed for conservation purposes.
# Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan - Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abundance Index</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
<th>Nonresident Annual Limit</th>
<th>Two rods October 1 - March 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 and above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 or 2&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>All Anglers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.76 to 2.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 or 2&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>5 or 6</td>
<td>All Anglers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.51 to 1.75</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 or 2&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>All Anglers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.21 to 1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Resident Anglers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 and below</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 to 1&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Resident Anglers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 and below</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 to 1&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Resident Anglers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 to 1&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Resident Anglers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>Nonresident bag limit of 2 fish in May and June and one fish remainder of the year.

<sup>b</sup>Nonresident bag limit of 2 fish in May and one fish remainder of the year.

<sup>c</sup>Nonresident anglers harvest limit of 3 fish January 1–June 30, 2 fish July 1–July 15, and 1 fish July 16–December 31.

<sup>d</sup>Nonresident anglers harvest limit of 3 fish January 1–June 30, and 1 fish July 1–December 31.

<sup>e</sup>Additional restrictions at abundance indexes below 1.0 may include reduced fishing times, 48 inch limit for nonresidents and no retention periods.
### 2015

#### AI = 2.57 (January 1–June 30)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Limit Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>3 fish bag limit and possession limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident</td>
<td>2 fish bag limit in May and June with a 1 fish bag limit the remainder of the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 fish annual limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Anglers</td>
<td>2 rods from October through March.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AI = 1.45 (July 1–December 31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Limit Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>1 fish bag limit and possession limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 rods from October through March.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident</td>
<td>1 fish bag limit and possession limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 fish annual limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2016

AI = 2.06

Resident

3 fish bag limit and possession limit

Nonresident

2 fish bag and possession limit in May and June and
1 fish bag and possession for the remainder of the year
3 fish annual limit

All Anglers

2 rods from October through March for all anglers.
2017

\[AI = 1.27\]

Resident

1 fish bag limit and possession limit
2 rods from October through March.

Nonresident

1 fish bag limit and possession limit
3 fish annual limit
King Salmon Management-Performance

Southeast Alaska King Salmon Treaty Harvest and Allocation

- Sport Harvest
- Preseason Sport Allocation

Number of King Salmon

YEAR


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Alaska Wild King Salmon Harvest

Sport Harvest of Wild SEAK-origin King Salmon in Southeast Alaska: Genetic MSA and CWT based Estimates

YEAR

Number of King Salmon

0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000 30,000


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Alaska Wild King Salmon Harvest

Average Sport Fish King Salmon Harvest by Sport Fishery Area (2005—2016)

All Other Stocks  SEAK Wild-origin Stocks
Sablefish Harvest in Southeast Alaska

- Proposal 116.

![Graph showing sablefish harvest in Southeast Alaska from 2011 to 2016. The graph compares the number of sablefish harvested by residents and nonresidents. The years 2011 to 2016 are shown on the x-axis, and the number of sablefish harvested is shown on the y-axis. The data shows a trend where the number of sablefish harvested by nonresidents generally exceeds that harvested by residents, with a peak in 2015.](image-url)
Rockfish Proposals

Pelagic Rockfish:
- 127
- 128

Nonpelagic Rockfish:
- 125
- 126
Rockfish Management

- **Pelagic Rockfish**
  - Species include: dark, dusky, widow, yellowtail, black, and blue rockfish.

- **Nonpelagic Rockfish**
  - Includes all rockfish species in the genus *Sebastes* that are not defined as pelagic rockfish.
    - Demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) (canary, China, copper, quillback, rosethorn, tiger and yelloweye rockfish)
    - Other nonpelagic rockfish (all others not defined as DSR)
Rockfish Harvest

- Pelagic Harvest
- Pelagic Release
- Nonpelagic Harvest
- Nonpelagic Release
- Total Rockfish Harvest
Rockfish Management
Rockfish Management

To keep the sport fishery within its allocation, the board outlined a series of eight management measures that may be implemented by emergency order:

1. reduce bag and possession limits for nonresident anglers;
2. retention of all nonpelagic rockfish caught by a nonresident angler is required until the nonresident bag limit is reached;
3. charter operators and crewmembers may not retain nonpelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel;
4. annual limits for nonpelagic rockfish for nonresident anglers;
5. reduce the bag and possession limits for resident anglers;
6. retention of all nonpelagic rockfish caught by a resident angler is required until the resident angler’s bag limit is reached;
7. annual limits for nonpelagic rockfish for resident anglers; and
8. time and area closures.
Southeast Outside Subdistrict Sport Total Mortality and Allocation of Demersal Shelf Rockfish

*2017 data preliminary
Release at Depth of Rockfish
Release at Depth of Rockfish
Release at Depth of Rockfish
Release at Depth of Rockfish

Deepwater Release Methods

Rockfish are most likely to survive when released slowly at depth by anglers using the following steps:

Step 1:
- Make sure your release device is ready — rockfish are most likely to survive when time at the surface is minimized. With practice, rockfish can be released within two minutes of reaching the surface.
- Red the fish up as quickly as possible. After unlatching it, hook the release device through the soft tissue on the jaw. Make sure the hook does not have a barb. Release the fish several feet to the right as your line spool out fully.

Step 2:
- Swing the fish slightly to one side and let go of the jig. Let line pull as the weight pulls the fish back to the bottom. When the jig hits bottom (or 100 feet in depth), hook the red and give a hard tug to release the fish.

PREVENTION

- Avoid catching unwanted rockfish.
  When targeting other species, such as halibut or lingcod, rockfish bycatch can be greatly reduced by keeping lures and bait 10 to 15 feet off the bottom. This has little or no effect on halibut and lingcod catch rates. Move to a different area if you are catching rockfish unintentionally.

- Target other species first.
  To harvest rockfish as part of a mixed bag, target other species first. This will allow you to retain any incidental rockfish caught as part of your limit, and minimize the number of rockfish released.

- Avoid excessive rockfish harvests.
  Rockfish have a short life of about four months, so harvest only what you are likely to eat in the near future.

- Use release-friendly tackle.
  When fishing with bait, use a single circle hook. Circle hooks are less likely to cause injury by being deeply swallowed, increasing the chance of survival for released fish.