

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Member Israel Payton
January 12, 2020

Substitute language for proposal 48:

5 AAC 28.466. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan; and 5 AAC 64.XXX. New section. Establish a management plan for the Kodiak Area rockfish sport fishery and a guideline harvest range for the Kodiak Area commercial rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 64.XXX is added:

Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan. (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of stabilizing the sport harvest of black rockfish in the waters of the Kodiak Area particularly in the areas of Chiniak and Marmot bays. Black rockfish will be managed for harvest levels within the established guideline harvest range until a time when survey abundance estimates suggest an increase in harvest is appropriate. In recognition that commercial and sport users harvest the same populations of black rockfish, a management plan is also in place for commercial fisheries to maintain harvest within the guideline harvest range specified in 5 AAC 28.466(h).

(b) In the Kodiak Area rockfish sport fishery,

(1) the guideline harvest range is 0 – 26,000 black rockfish;

(2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department using saltwater guide logbooks, statewide harvest survey data, and dockside sampling data;

(3) the bag and possession limit for rockfish is five fish, only two of which may be nonpelagic and only one of which may be a yelloweye except;

(A) in the waters of Chiniak Bay and Marmot Bay, west of a line from Cape Chiniak to Pillar Cape and east of a line from Head Point on Afognak Island at 57° 59.67' N. lat., 152° 46.75' W. long., to Dolphin Point at 57° 59.15' N. lat., 152° 43.40' W. long., on Whale Island and from Bird Point at 57° 55.30' N. lat., 152° 47.50' W. long., on Whale Island to Inner Point at 57° 54.05' N. lat., 152° 47.75' W. long., on Kodiak Island,

(i) the bag limit for rockfish is three fish per day and six in possession, of which only two fish per day and four in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish, and only one fish per day and two in possession may be yelloweye rockfish; no size limit;

(ii) charter vessel operators and crewmembers may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

(c) If the harvest increases and it is anticipated that the upper bound of the guideline harvest range will be exceeded or has been exceeded, the commissioner may implement restrictions that may be necessary to restrict the increase of harvest in the sport fishery. When the commissioner finds that restrictions are necessary, the commissioner will adopt one or more of the following restrictions:

(1) implement an annual limit for non-residents for rockfish;

(2) reduce nonresident bag and possession limit for rockfish;

(3) reduce the rockfish bag limit by statistical area according to the department's groundfish statistical chart;

(4) implement a rockfish season;

(5) reduce the resident bag and possession limit for rockfish.

5 AAC 28.466(h) is added:

(h) the annual Kodiak Area black rockfish guideline harvest range is 0 - 120,000 pounds.