

RC # _____

Revised PROPOSAL 225

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

Modify sablefish bag, possession, and nonresident annual limits based on sablefish abundance in NSEI and SSEI sections; as follows:

5 AAC 47.020 (17)(A) resident: ~~Set~~ bag limit of ~~four~~ six fish; possession limit of ~~four~~ six fish; no size limit; ~~no~~ annual limit ~~[OF EIGHT FISH] as a baseline. Increase baseline limits by one fish when ABC reaches 1M pounds and thereafter an additional one fish for every 100,000 pounds over 1M with a cap of six fish daily; possession limit of six fish; no size limit; no annual limit.~~

5 AAC 47.020 (17)(B) nonresident: ~~Set~~ bag limit of ~~four~~ six fish; possession limit of ~~four~~ six fish; no size limit; annual limit of ~~eight~~ twelve fish. ~~; as a baseline. Increase baseline limits by one fish when ABC reaches 1M pounds and thereafter an additional one fish for every 100,000 pounds over 1M with a cap of six fish daily; possession limit of six fish; no size limit; annual limit of twelve fish.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial sablefish ABC (Allowable Biological Catch) in the NSEI (Northern Southeast Inside) Subdistrict and SSEI (Southern Southeast Inside) Subdistrict have shown an increase in recent years, while resident and non-resident sport anglers bag limits have not changed since they were originally established in 2009. Recreational angler opportunity should be ~~linked to abundance~~ **increased** as done with the commercial sablefish AHO (Allowable Harvest Opportunity). ~~A cap in bag limits would ensure sport harvest would not exceed sport/commercial allocation percentages similar to that of other sport fish species. This would apply only to the NSEI Subdistrict.~~

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Charter Association

(HQ-F20-004)

**Proposal 225 was corrected 11/16/2020 to remove the eight fish resident annual limit.*

Revised Proposal:

1. The concept of linking bag limits to abundance only makes sense if the recreational sector were given a GH (Guideline Harvest Level) or TAC (Total Allowable Catch). Bag limits are normally used to keep a sector within a given allocation. There currently is no target sablefish allocation for the recreational fishery nor do we see a need for any at this time as harvest has been significantly below levels established in other sport species. Sport harvest has been around 7% where other species like King Salmon, Rockfish, and Halibut have been between 15%-20%. Therefore this proposal has stricken any reference to a change in bag limits linked to an abundance trigger.
2. Staff has commented that this proposal may have unknown impacts in other subdistricts due to the lack of equivalent data that is available for the NSEI Subdistrict. Therefore this proposal has been revised to apply only to the NSEI Subdistrict.