

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-R-01-06

Issued at Juneau, Wednesday May 24,
2006

Effective 12:01 A.M. Friday,
Date: May 26, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Sunday,
December 31, 2006 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order prohibits charter boat operators, guides and crew members from retaining any species of fish while paying clients are on board the vessel operated in salt water. This action is necessary for curtailing halibut harvests in Southeast Alaska, excluding the Yakutat area because the guideline harvest level (GHL) has been exceeded.

REGULATION

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.036 (c) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 A.M. May 26, 2006 through 11:59 P.M. December 31, 2006:

5 AAC 47.036 Prohibitions.

(c) A sport fishing guide and sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska, excluding the Yakutat area may not retain fish while clients are on board the vessel.

By delegation to:

McKie Campbell
Commissioner

Charles O. Swanton
Regional Management Supervisor
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The halibut GHL for Southeast Alaska, excluding the Yakutat area was exceeded in 2004 and based upon preliminary data exceeded again in 2005. Based upon this information, the Department and North Pacific Fishery Management Council discussed options for curtailing the halibut harvest by the guided sport charter industry at the December 2005 meeting. It was recognized that federal action would not be timely enough to reduce the harvest of halibut by charter clients during the 2006 season. The Department agreed to take action through the Board of Fisheries to prohibit charter boat guides and crew from retaining any species of fish while paying clients are on board the vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska, excluding the Yakutat area. This action will effectively reduce the 2006 halibut harvest by sport fishing charter clients within Southeast Alaska.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4297.