

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-MS-R-06-15

Issued at: Juneau, April 20, 2015

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Monday, April 27, 2015

Expiration Date: Sunday, September 13,
2015 at 11:59 p.m. unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the filleting, mutilating and de-heading of lingcod, nonpelagic rockfish, and king and coho salmon by marine boat anglers during designated times and areas within Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.030.(m) are added by this emergency order and become effective at 12:01 a.m. April 27, 2015. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.030. General Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(m) In Southeast Alaska, marine boat anglers possessing sport caught lingcod, nonpelagic rockfish, king and coho salmon, and returning to any port on the road system of the communities listed below, during the times designated, may not fillet, mutilate, or de-head these fish until the fish have been offloaded, unless they are preserved or have been consumed on board:

Ketchikan:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2015.
Craig:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 4,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Klawock:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 4,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Sitka:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2015.
Juneau:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2015.
Petersburg:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Wrangell:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Haines:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 28, 2015.
Skagway:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 25,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Gustavus:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 4,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Elfin Cove:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 4,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.
Yakutat:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The department conducts on-site creel sampling programs in Southeast Alaska to estimate sport fishing effort, harvest, contributions of hatchery and certain wild stocks of king and coho salmon, length and sex composition of lingcod, and length and weight of nonpelagic rockfish. Many anglers fillet, de-head, and process fish before returning to port, which makes it impossible for Fish and Game staff to determine length and sex of lingcod, weight of nonpelagic rockfish or recover tagged heads of king and coho salmon. This results in a diminished ability to estimate the length and sex composition of sport harvested lingcod, estimate average weight of nonpelagic rockfish or contributions of specific king and coho salmon stocks and Alaska hatchery fish to the sport fishery.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulations giving the department authority to restrict these activities by emergency order during times and in locations necessary for scientific data collection. These actions are important to fisheries management. This regulation will be in effect for the duration of the creel sampling programs. Anglers returning to these ports still have the ability to consume king salmon, coho salmon, lingcod, and nonpelagic rockfish on board, as well as preserve these fish, if they so choose, before offloading.

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 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 747-5551.