

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-03-20

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, December 30, 2019.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, January 31, 2021 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits retention of nonpelagic rockfish in all Southeast marine waters.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-04-19 issued March 21, 2019 is rescinded and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(8)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday January 31, 2021:

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

- (8)(B) nonpelagic rockfish:
- (i) retention of nonpelagic rockfish is prohibited.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

Despite conservative management action in all state managed fisheries, estimated Southeast Outside Waters yelloweye biomass (used as an indicator for all nonpelagic rockfish) has decreased 60% in the last 20 years. In addition to the decline in biomass, annual trends in biological data (length, weight, and age by sex) reveal truncation of age classes, thus reducing reproductive potential and increasing uncertainty for future recruitment of juveniles. Restrictive management actions in the Southeast Alaska nonpelagic rockfish sport fishery need to be taken to ensure the sustainability of these stocks. The personal use fishery and directed commercial fisheries are taking corresponding actions.

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 99824, (907) 465-4270.