

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-MS-R-08-21

Issued at: Juneau, Monday, April 19, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, April 26, 2021

Expiration Date: Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the filleting, mutilating (excluding gutting) and de-heading of lingcod, slope rockfish, and king and coho salmon at-sea 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 26, 2021. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

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

(m) In Southeast Alaska, marine boat anglers possessing sport caught lingcod, slope 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 (excluding gutting), or de-head these fish until their vessel is tied up at a docking facility where the fish will be offloaded, unless the fish have been consumed or preserved on board:

Ketchikan:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 24,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021.
Craig:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 10,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021.
Klawock:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 10,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021.
Sitka:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 26,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021.
Juneau:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 26,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021.
Petersburg:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 24,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021.
Wrangell:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 24,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021.
Gustavus:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 10,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021.
Yakutat:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 26,	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021.

Doug Vincent-Lang
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 slope rockfish. Many anglers fillet, de-head, and process fish before returning to port, which makes it impossible for ADF&G staff to determine length and sex of lingcod, length of slope rockfish or recover coded-wire-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 slope 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 or coho salmon, lingcod, and slope 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) 465-4270.