

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-10-21

Issued at: at Sitka, Monday,
May 3, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, May 16, 2021.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
November 30, 2021 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies lingcod sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and establishes minimum and maximum size limits and annual limits for lingcod in the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(7) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions will be in effect from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, May 16 to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, November 30, 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.

(7) lingcod: may be taken from May 16 – November 30 as follows:

(A) in the Yakutat vicinity waters between 139° and 144° W. long.:

- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
- (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, no size limit; annual limit of two lingcod;
- (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;

(B) in the waters of Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict: All waters of Frederick Sound, Stephens Passage, Lynn Canal, Icy Strait, Glacier Bay, Chatham Strait, and contiguous bays and inlets bordered by a line from Beacon Point to Wood Point, from Point Camden to Salt Point Light, the Cape Decision Light to a point west of Gish Bay at 55° 54.53' N. lat., 134° 12.50' W. long. to the southernmost tip of Helm Point to the westernmost tip of Hazy Island to the Cape Ommaney Light, north of 57° 30' N. lat. in Peril Strait, from the westernmost tip of Column Point to the northernmost tip of Soapstone Point and from the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer through Yakobi Rock to Yakobi Island;

- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 35 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;
- (C) in the waters of the northern portion of the Southeast Outside Subdistrict: south and east of 139° W. long. and north of 56° N. lat.;
- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 40 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 40 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;
- (D) in waters of Southern Southeast Alaska along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., and waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 137° W. long. and the remaining inside waters of Southern Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continued to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, east of the longitude of the Cape Decision:
- (i) Alaska residents: bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - (ii) nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 45 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 45 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - (iii) a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

Notwithstanding any bag limit, possession limit, annual limit, or maximum size limit established in (A) – (D) of this paragraph, in the combined waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, the nonresident lingcod annual limit is six fish of which only one may be 55 inches or greater in length;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Robert Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) modified sport fishing regulations for lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to widespread decline in abundance as indicated in the directed lingcod commercial fishery. The board established a guideline harvest level (GHL) approach for sport and commercial fisheries management of lingcod in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160 (e)). The GHL was allocated between sport and commercial users by the board for seven fishery management areas (5 AAC 28.165). The board also expanded the department's authority to modify regulations to achieve the lingcod allocation for the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.060).

Since 2000, the department has implemented regulations annually, by emergency order, including minimum length and slot limits, reduced bag and possession limits, annual limits, nonretention of fish by charter operators and crew members, and reduced seasons. These regulations have been effective at maintaining the sport fishery lingcod harvest near or below allocations in all of the management areas. Sport fishing provisions established by this emergency order for the Northern Southeast Inside and Southern Southeast areas are identical to lingcod regulations implemented by emergency order during 2020. Additional harvest opportunity in Central Southeast Outside and Northern Southeast Outside allows for a nonresident increase in size slot limit from 30-35 inches in 2020 to 30-40 inches in 2021. Additional harvest opportunity in the Yakutat area allows for a nonresident liberalization in size restriction from a slot limit of 30-50 inches in 2020 to no size limit in 2021. Additionally, in the Yakutat area, there is enough opportunity for nonresident anglers to increase the annual limit of two fish, one in each size category, to two lingcod of any size.

Residents continue to have no size restrictions or annual limits. These actions are being taken under the authority granted to the department by the board within the *Lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management* (5 AAC 47.060).

This action is necessary to ensure that sport harvests of lingcod stay within the regulatory harvest allocations to the sport fishery.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.