

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No. 2-RF-7-21-25**

**Issued at:** Anchorage, Wednesday,  
May 21, 2025

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 27, 2025

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Monday,  
September 15, 2025, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order reduces rockfish bag and possession limits in the salt waters of Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay area from 3 per day and 6 in possession of which only 1 per day and 2 in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish to 3 per day and 6 in possession of which only 2 per day and 4 in possession may be a pelagic rockfish and only 1 per day and 2 in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish from May 27 – September 15. In addition, yelloweye rockfish may not be retained from May 27 through June 30, 2025.

**REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022(a)(6) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 27 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 15, 2025:

**5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.**

(a)(6) rockfish may be taken as follows:

- (A) from May 27 – September 15, bag limit of three fish and six in possession, of which no more than two per day and four in possession may be a pelagic rockfish and one per day and two in possession may be a nonpelagic rockfish as defined in 5 AAC 75.995; no size limit;
- (B) from May 27 – June 30, yelloweye rockfish may not be retained.

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to: *Brittany Blain-Roth*  
Brittany Blain-Roth  
North Gulf Coast Sport Fish Area Manager

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The harvest of rockfish has been increasing in sport fisheries throughout Southcentral Alaska which has prompted ADF&G to take management actions to stabilize harvest levels until additional stock information is available. In Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay saltwater's management actions were first implemented in 2023 and 2024. Despite these management actions, effort towards rockfish continued to increase which resulted in a 17% increase in the harvest of black rockfish in Cook Inlet and 35-40% harvest increase of yelloweye rockfish from 2023 to 2024. This increase is likely due to the more restrictive management actions for charter (guided) anglers because of declines in halibut productivity and allocations within the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP). Additional restrictions for king and coho salmon for all anglers also contributed to the shift in effort towards rockfish in 2024. In 2025, the guided halibut regulations are the most restrictive annual regulations (including closing all Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the entire season) since the implementation of CSP in 2014 and king salmon restrictions were issued in saltwater sport fisheries throughout the northern Gulf of Alaska, including Cook Inlet.

It is anticipated there will be additional effort shifted towards rockfish in 2025 which warrants this precautionary approach to reduce the harvest of black rockfish and keep harvest of yelloweye rockfish from increasing. The seasonal closure for yelloweye rockfish will further protect gravid females and is consistent with sport fish restrictions for yelloweye rockfish in the Prince William Sound area. Although there is limited black and yelloweye rockfish stock information, analyses of the biological composition of the sport harvest show a large proportion of the harvest is immature fish indicating a possible change in the population structure. This action is being taken in the interest of conservative management until better stock information is available.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.