

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-04-26

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, January 26, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies the sport fishing season for demersal shelf rockfish for nonresident anglers from January 1 – December 31 to July 1 - August 25 in the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(8)(C)(ii) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 28 to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026:

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) rockfish may be taken from January 1 – December 31, as follows;

(C) demersal shelf rockfish, as defined in 5 AAC 39,975:

(ii) nonresident: demersal shelf rockfish may be taken from July 1 – August 25; bag limit of one fish; possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Troy Tydingco
Acting Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In January 2025, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified sport fishing regulations for demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska to allow for limited harvest opportunity for nonresident anglers. This emergency order implements those actions for the 2026 fishing season.

In 2020, the demersal shelf rockfish fishery in Southeast Alaska was closed due to conservation concerns. Since 2021, stock assessments in Southeast Outside Waters have indicated an increasing trend in yelloweye rockfish biomass. While limited opportunity is being provided, restrictive management actions in the Southeast Alaska sport fishery continue to be necessary to protect the sustainability of these species.

A fishing season has been established for nonresident anglers from July 1 – August 25 for all Southeast Alaska marine waters. These actions protect yelloweye rockfish during their reproductive cycle, which mostly occurs during early summer. These regulations are also designed to ensure that the sport harvest of demersal shelf rockfish stays within the sport allocation for Southeast Outside Waters under the authority granted to the department within the *Demersal shelf rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management* (5 AAC 47.065).

The additional harvest opportunity for residents only applies within Alaska state waters (0-3 nautical miles from shore). In the waters of the exclusive economic zone, all anglers must comply with the regulations established for nonresident anglers, including those established by this emergency order.

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 99811, (907) 465-4270.