

## DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

Upon request by a Department representative or state peace officer, anglers must forfeit the heads of any salmon or trout with external or internal tags and all fish that are adipose fin-clipped along with the date and location of where caught.

## LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS

Unless otherwise provided by regulation or statute, a person who violates a provision of these regulations is strictly liable for the offense, regardless of that person's intent.

## PROHIBITED ACTS

### CLOSED WATERS/ WATERS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING:

- Unless otherwise provided by area regulations: (a) the waters within 300 feet of a fish weir or fish ladder are closed to sport fishing, unless a lesser or greater distance is indicated by Department markers; and (b) it is unlawful to cast, drift, or place by any means a hook, bait, lure, or fly into waters closed to sport fishing.

### FELT-SOLED BOOTS PROHIBITED:

- The use of footgear with absorbent felt or other fibrous material on the soles is prohibited while sport fishing in fresh water.

### GAFFS PROHIBITED:

- A gaff may not be used to puncture any fish intended or required to be released.

### MOLESTING OF FISH:

- Molesting or impeding spawning or the natural movement of fish contrary to lawful methods and means of sport fishing is prohibited.

### POSSESSION, TRANSPORT, OR MARKING OF LIVE FISH, EGGS, OR AQUATIC ORGANISMS:

- It is unlawful, except in accordance with the provisions listed on page 7 under "Use of Sport-Caught Fish as Bait," or in compliance with the terms of a permit issued by the Commissioner for a person to collect, transport, possess, propagate, export, mark in any way, or release into the waters or the lands of the state, any live fish, fish eggs, or aquatic organism.

*Possession, Transport, or Marking of Live Fish, Eggs, or Aquatic Organisms continued...*

- It is unlawful for a person to possess, import, propagate, transport, release, purchase, or sell within the state a banned invasive species (see Definitions on page 8), including any part of the organism, such as reproductive or genetic material, at any stage of its life cycle.

### SALE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH PROHIBITED:

- No person may buy, sell, or barter sport-caught fish or their parts.

### SNAGGING IN FRESH WATER PROHIBITED:

- It is unlawful to intentionally snag or attempt to snag any fish in fresh water.
- "Snag" means to hook a fish elsewhere than in its mouth. A fish unintentionally hooked elsewhere than its mouth must be released immediately.

### SNAGGING IN SALT WATER:

- Unless otherwise prohibited under area regulation, snagging is allowed in salt water.
- Snagging is prohibited year-round in all salt water north of a line from Bluff Point. See the map on page 74.

### USE OF EXPLOSIVES OR TOXICANTS:

- The use of any toxicant or explosive is prohibited in the taking of any fish in the waters of Alaska. Except that a shaft tipped with an explosive charge (commonly known as a bangstick or powerhead) or a firearm may be used on board a vessel in salt water to dispatch a fish caught with legal gear.

### WASTE OF FISH:

- The intentional waste or destruction of any species of sport-caught fish is prohibited.

## METHODS AND MEANS

### FRESH WATER SPORT FISHING:

Fish may not be taken in fresh water by means of:

- Fixed or weighted hooks and lures (except those of standard manufacture);
- Multiple hooks with gap between point and shank larger than one-half inch;
- Spear, unless permitted by area regulations; or arrow, unless permitted by area regulations.
- **Spearguns are not legal gear in fresh waters.**

### GEAR FOR FLY-FISHING-ONLY WATERS:

- In waters designated as fly-fishing-only waters, sport fishing is permitted only as follows:

- With not more than one unweighted, single hook fly with gap between point and shank of  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less; and
- Weights may only be used 18 inches or more ahead of the fly.

### ICE FISHING GEAR:

- Sport fishing through the ice is permitted using two closely attended lines, provided only one hook (single hook or multiple hook) or artificial lure is used on each line, except that additional gear may be used for northern pike and burbot as specified in statewide or area regulations.
- The maximum number of lines/hooks that an angler may deploy is not cumulative and is equal to the maximum number of lines/hooks allowed for any species. The number of lines/hooks used to target a species may not exceed the number allowed for that species. For example, in a lake where regulations allow 15 lines for burbot and 5 lines for northern pike, the maximum number of lines you may fish is 15 (not  $15 + 5 = 20$ ); and when setting your 15 lines, only 5 of them may be placed to target pike.

### SPORT FISHING GEAR:

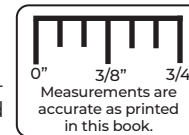
Unless otherwise provided in regulation, sport fishing may be conducted only by use of:

- A closely attended single line attached to not more than one plug; one spoon; one spinner or series of spinners; two artificial flies; or two hooks.
- The line must be closely attended, unless unattended setlines for burbot are allowed per area regulations.

### SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR BURBOT:

Unless otherwise provided by area regulations, burbot may be taken in fresh water with more than one line and hook, provided:

- The total aggregate number of hooks may not exceed 15 or the daily bag limit for burbot in the waters being fished, whichever is less.
- Hooks are single hooks with gap between point and shank larger than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.
- Each hook is set to rest on the bottom of the lake or stream.



## METHODS AND MEANS (CONTINUED)

*Sport Fishing Gear for Burbot continued...*

- Each line is identified with angler's name and address.
- Each line is physically inspected at least once in each 24-hour period.

### SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR HERRING AND SMELT:

- In salt water, herring and smelt may be taken with the use of 15 or less unbaited single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

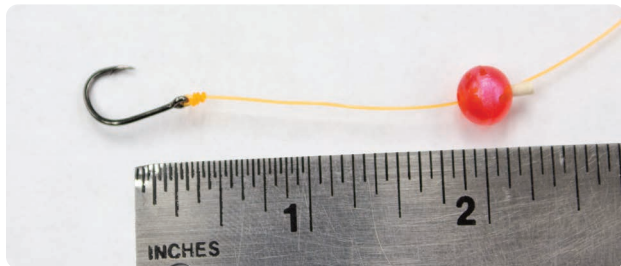
### SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR NORTHERN PIKE:

- Unless otherwise provided by the area regulations, northern pike may be taken by spear.

### USE OF ATTRACTOR (BEAD):

An attractor, including a bead, when used with an artificial fly, artificial lure, or bare hook, must be:

- Either fixed within two inches of the bare hook, fly, or lure,
- Or be free sliding on the line or leader.
- A bead fished on the line above a bare single hook is legal gear in waters where only flies may be used.



### USE OF UNDERWATER SPEAR (SALT WATER):

- In salt water, spears and spearguns may be used to take fish, subject to applicable seasons and limits, by persons who are completely submerged, provided that the spear or speargun is not tipped with an explosive charge.

**GET THE LATEST FISHING INFO EMAILED TO YOU.  
SIGN UP ONLINE AT [WWW.WEFISHAK.ALASKA.GOV](http://WWW.WEFISHAK.ALASKA.GOV)**



## SPORT FISH GUIDING

- All individuals and businesses who are providing sport fishing guide services must register and obtain a guide and/or business registration with ADF&G before guiding clients.
- All sport charter vessels used for the guided taking of fish or shellfish in fresh or salt water must have a current Division of Motor Vehicles boat registration number or USCG documentation number and an ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel decal with the current year renewal sticker.
  - Decals must be displayed in plain sight on each side of the vessel any time sport fishing guide services are taking place.
- In Southeast Alaska, all saltwater sport fishing businesses must use an eLogbook.
- Additional information on requirements for sport fish guides and businesses can be found online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.main).
- **Guide regulations for specific Southcentral waters can be found on page 12.**

## POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH

- Sport-caught fish, their parts, and articles manufactured from such fish may be possessed within the state by any person at any time, and may be transported within and exported out of the state by any person at any time, except that no person may possess any unpreserved fish, or part of one, not legally taken by the angler, unless the angler furnishes, upon request of any peace officer of the state, a statement signed by the person taking the fish stating the type of fish, number of fish, location, date taken, and license number. See Transfer of Possession Form on page 95. The statement is unnecessary if the person possessing the fish is accompanied by the person who took the fish. No person may possess fish which were not legally taken.
- A person may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which that person is fishing.
- Upon request by an employee of the Department, or a peace officer of the state, a person must present for inspection any fish taken or possessed by the person in a sport fishery.
- Upon request by an employee of the Department or a peace officer of the state, a person while taking fish must present for inspection any apparatus designed to be or capable of being used to take fish in a sport fishery.

## POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT HALIBUT

- Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty.
- Federal possession and landing requirements for sport-caught halibut differ from state regulations. Possession includes unpreserved AND preserved fish for halibut, but possession limits only apply in saltwaters.
- Transfer of Possession forms, as mentioned in the previous section, are not valid for halibut.
- Consult federal regulations for halibut bag, size, and possession limits for guided (charter) anglers; and possession and landing requirements.
- Federal halibut regulations are available through NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region at (907) 586-7228.  
[www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut](http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut)

## USE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH AS BAIT

- Unless provided for in this section, fish taken under sport fishing regulations may not be used as bait, except;
  - Pink salmon taken as part of a sport fishing bag limit, may be used as bait in salt water. Pink and chum salmon can be used as bait in Prince William Sound salt water. When used as bait in salt water, pink or chum salmon may not be alive. See additional information on page 82 for Prince William Sound.
  - Herring and whitefish may be used as bait.
  - Species for which bag limits, seasons, or other regulatory methods and means are not provided in sport fishing regulations may be used as bait.
  - The head, tail, fins, and viscera of legally taken sport fish, may be used as bait.
- Live herring and other species for which no seasonal or harvest limits are specified in sport fishing regulations may be used as live bait, except that live fish may not be used as bait for sport fishing in fresh water.
  - Live bait may be possessed, transported, or released only in the salt waters of the regulatory area in which it was taken.