

DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

- Anglers must surrender the heads of any tagged salmon or trout with external or internal tags, or an adipose finclip, along with the catch date and location, upon request by ADF&G staff or state peace officer.

LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS

- Unless specified by regulation or law, anyone who violates these regulations is strictly liable for the offense, regardless of that person's intent.

PROHIBITED ACTS**BAIT PROHIBITED IN FRESH WATER FROM NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14:**

- Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used.
- The use of bait is only allowed in freshwater from September 15 through November 15, unless otherwise noted in the special regulations listed on pages 16-39.

BOWFISHING:

- Bowfishing is prohibited in the fresh and salt waters of Southeast Alaska.

CLOSED WATERS/ WATERS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING:

- Unless area regulations state otherwise:
 - It is unlawful to cast, drift, or place any hook, bait, lure, or fly into waters closed to sport fishing.

FELT-SOLED BOOTS PROHIBITED:

- The use of footwear with absorbent felt or other fibrous material on the soles is prohibited while sport or personal use 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 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, 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.
- It is unlawful for a person to possess any part of a Class A banned invasive species, including reproductive or genetic material, at any stage of its life cycle, except as follows: (1) when transporting a specimen to any ADF&G office or another location as directed by ADF&G staff in a sealed container for the purpose of containing, identifying, or reporting the presence of the species; or (2) under the provisions of an aquatic resource permit. A person may not possess any live Class B banned invasive species at any stage of its life cycle. See page 54 for Class A & B definitions.

SALE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH PROHIBITED:

- It is unlawful for anyone to buy, sell, barter, or trade sport-caught fish or their parts.

SNAGGING IN FRESH WATER PROHIBITED:

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

USE OF EXPLOSIVES OR TOXICANTS:

- The use of any toxicants or explosives to catch any fish in the waters of Alaska is prohibited. However, 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 sport-caught fish species is prohibited.

METHODS AND MEANS**FISH LADDERS:**

- Fishing is allowed within 300 feet of fish ladders unless otherwise posted by ADF&G markers. No person may fish from, on, or in a fish ladder.

FRESH WATER SPORT FISHING:

- Fish **MAY NOT** be taken in freshwater using:
 - Fixed or weighted hooks and lures (except standard manufactured ones);
 - Multiple hooks with a gap larger than ½ inch between the point and shank;
 - A spear or bow and arrow, unless allowed under area regulations.
 - **Spearguns are not legal gear in freshwaters.**
- The use of bait is only allowed from September 15 through November 15. This regulation applies to all fresh waters, unless otherwise noted in special regulations on pages 16-39.
- Fresh waters closed to salmon fishing but open to trout, Arctic grayling, Arctic char, or kokanee fishing are also open to the taking of salmon less than 16 inches long.
- Ice fishing is allowed with two closely attended lines, provided only one hook or artificial lure is used on each line.

POWER-ASSISTED FISHING REEL:

- A power-assisted fishing reel may only be used to sport fish if:
 - The reel is mounted on a fishing rod by means of a reel seat and;
 - The reel assembly, motor, gearbox, fishing line, reel-mounted battery, or other reel-mounted attachments weigh no more than 15 pounds in total when detached from the fishing rod.

SNAGGING IN SALT WATER:

- Snagging is allowed in saltwater, unless prohibited under area regulations.

SPORT FISHING GEAR:

- Unless area regulations state otherwise, sport fishing may only be done using:
 - A closely attended single line, held in hand or attached to a fishing pole or rod, attached to no more than one plug; one spoon; one spinner or series of spinners; two artificial flies; or two hooks.
 - The line must be closely attended.
 - No more than six lines may be fished from any vessel.
 - The maximum number of fishing lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in charter activities is equal to the number of paying clients on board the vessel but cannot exceed six lines.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR HERRING AND SMELT:

- In saltwater, herring and smelt may be taken using up to 15 or less unbaited, single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR SQUID:

- Squid may be taken using no more than two squid jigs attached to a single line. See page 55 for definition of a squid jig. Standard sport fishing gear can also be used to target squid, see above.

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 2 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 are allowed.

USE OF UNDERWATER SPEAR (SALTWATER):

- In saltwater, a person may use a spear or speargun (not tipped with an explosive charge) to take fish while completely submerged or swimming on the surface, subject to applicable seasons, bag limits, and possession limits.



Sheri Ashmore, octopus, Yakutat

USE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH AS BAIT

- Fish caught under sport fishing regulations may not be used as bait, except;
 - Herring, chum salmon, pink salmon, and whitefish may be used as bait.
 - Species with no bag or annual limits may be used as bait.
 - The head, tail, fins, closely trimmed skeleton, and viscera of legally caught sport fish may be used as bait.
- Live herring and other species with no bag or annual limits may be used as live bait in saltwater, except that live fish may not be used as bait in freshwater.
- Live bait may only be possessed, transported, or released in the regulatory saltwaters area where it was caught.

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 ADF&G staff or 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 52.
- The statement is unnecessary if the person possessing the fish is accompanied by the person who caught the fish. No one may possess fish which were not legally caught.
- A person may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which that person is fishing. This means that you may not fish in any waters if you are in possession of fish that exceeds the possession limit for those waters.
- Upon request by an employee of ADF&G 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 ADF&G 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.

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Doug Nikaido, Holly Lanigan, Dan Lanigan, Fred Sycuro, Jesse Sycuro, & Bill Vobach, coho salmon, Sitka Sound

POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT HALIBUT

- Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty.
- **Transfer of Possession form is not valid for halibut.**
- Federal halibut regulations are available through NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region at (907) 586-7228. www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut

SPORT FISH GUIDING

- An eLogbook is required for all saltwater sport fishing businesses in Alaska.
- For more information on sport fishing guide and business requirements, visit www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.main.



Sunny Dutton, halibut, Icy Strait



Tate Ratzat, steelhead trout, Klawock River

EVIDENCE OF SPECIES AND SIZE

NEW Statewide retention requirements for rockfish, lingcod, and king salmon in all waters:

- You may fillet your catch, but all skin must remain attached to the fillets.
- For lingcod and king salmon, the carcass must be kept in one piece so the length can be measured.
 - The above applies until the vessel is tied up at a docking location where the fish will be offloaded from a vessel or an angler fishing from shore is done fishing for the day or is departing the fishing site for the day.
- This does not prohibit eating or preserving fish as allowed under regulation. See "Preserved Fish" on page 55.



Wyatt Spinks, yelloweye rockfish, Cross Sound

SPORT FISHING FROM COMMERCIAL LICENSED VESSELS

- A person sport fishing from a vessel licensed for commercial salmon fishing shall immediately mark harvested salmon by removing its dorsal (large back) fin. This marking requirements doesn't apply to commercial vessels that are also registered as charter vessels when paying clients are on board.
- Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing.
- A person may not sport fish and commercial fish for salmon from the same vessel on the same day.
- A person may not possess unpreserved sport caught salmon on any commercial salmon vessel while engaged in commercial salmon fishing.
- Additional restrictions and provisions apply to persons and vessels who participate in commercial shellfish fisheries. For specific information, see commercial shellfish regulations.

SOUTHEAST ADF&G ROD LOANER PROGRAM

DID YOU KNOW WE LOAN FISHING RODS TO ANGLERS?



WHAT WE OFFER:

- Light duty trout rods
- Medium duty salmon rods
- Fly rods (some locations)



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- A current Alaska sport fishing license for Alaska residents 18 years and older or nonresidents 16 years and older.
- Tackle (hooks, lures, weights, etc).
- A copy of the latest Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary book.



WHAT TO KNOW:

- Rods are first-come, first-serve, and subject to availability.
- No more than 3 rods may be checked out at a time.
- Rods may be checked out for a maximum of 3 days and must be returned during business hours.
- It is the borrower's responsibility for safeguarding and returning equipment in good condition.
- Equipment must be used for legal sport fishing activities.
- Equipment may not be used for monetary gain.



Scan the QR code for gear availability, fishing tips, or general questions, or contact your local ADF&G office for more info.

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UNDERSTANDING CREEL SURVEYS: WHY WE ASK ABOUT YOUR CATCH

Creel surveys are conducted by ADF&G staff at docks, harbors, boat ramps, and popular fishing areas.

Samplers will ask:

- What did you catch and did you release anything?
- Did you catch a Chinook or coho salmon without an adipose fin?
- How many people were fishing?
- How long were you fishing?
- Where were you fishing?
- May we sample your catch?



Some fish may be measured, and in some cases, samplers may collect tagged salmon heads and small genetic samples to support fisheries research.

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS

The information anglers provide during creel surveys is used to:

- Help ensure Alaska meets Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations.
- Estimate sport fishing effort and harvest.
- Support inseason management decisions.
- Monitor trends over time.

Good data helps protect fishing opportunities throughout the season and into the future.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Is this enforcement? No. Creel samplers focus on education and data collection. They are not enforcement officers and do not issue citations or check licenses.

Is my information confidential? Yes, confidential. Responses are combined and used for research and management purposes only.

How long does it take? Most surveys take just a few minutes.



YOUR PARTICIPATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE, THANK YOU!