

PROPOSAL 184

5 AAC 75.995. Definitions

Align the sport fish definition of rockfish with the statewide definition, as follows:

5 AC 75.995(22) is amended to read:

...

(22) “rockfish” means all fish of the genus *Sebastes*, including pelagic **shelf, demersal shelf, and slope** rockfish [AND NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH] **as defined in 5 AAC 39.975;**

(46) “nonpelagic rockfish” includes all rockfish species in the genus *Sebastes* that are not defined as pelagic rockfish **as defined in 5 AAC 39.975;**

[(47) “PELAGIC ROCKFISH” INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING *SEBASTES* SPECIES: (A-F)]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would modify the sport fish definition of rockfish by adding reference to the rockfish species assemblages defined in statewide commercial and personal use fisheries definitions. Historically, the sport fishery has been managed with two rockfish species assemblages “pelagic rockfish” and “nonpelagic rockfish,” in some instances (Southeast Alaska) the sport fishery is now managed with distinctive regulations for each of the three species groups “pelagic shelf,” “demersal shelf,” and “slope.” This clarification in the definitions aligns the definition of rockfish species assemblages within and across all fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-026)
