

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Establish provisions for reducing the resident pelagic rockfish bag limit in Central Southeast Outside waters, as follows:

(8)(A)

I propose that the Board of Fisheries direct the Department to refrain from reducing the CSEO resident sport bag limit for pelagic rockfish below the 5 per day established in 5 AAC 47.020 (8) (A), unless the resident share of the sport pelagic rockfish harvest in CSEO has exceeded 50% for two consecutive years.

Note: In Southeast Alaska, very few residents fish from a charter boat, whereas the great majority of non-residents do so. Hence, a distinction based on residency is in practice very similar to a charter/non-charter distinction. This proposal adopts the former convention solely because it has been the most common past practice of the Board of Fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? From 2007 to 2015 the harvest of pelagic rockfish by charter fishermen in the Sitka area (Central Southeast Outside-CSEO) more than doubled. Concern over this increased catch led the Department to use Emergency Order authority in 2016 and 2017 to reduce the bag limit for all sport anglers from 5 per day to 3 per day. The non-charter anglers' catch of pelagic rockfish had actually decreased between 2007-2015, yet they too were required to make further reductions due to concerns stemming from the increased charter harvest.

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