

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Member Cain.
March 07, 2018

Substitute regulatory language for Proposal 238.

5 AAC 55.022 is amended to read:

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(x) Beginning January 1, 2020, a person sport fishing from a vessel when releasing a rockfish shall immediately use a deep water release mechanism to return the fish to the depth it was hooked or to a depth of at least 100 feet. A vessel must have at least one functional deep water release mechanism on board and readily available for use when sport fishing activities are taking place. Upon request, a deep water release mechanism must be presented to a local representative of the department or a peace officer of the state. In this subsection, “deep water release mechanism” means a device designed to return a rockfish back near the bottom where it was hooked, or to a specified depth, and to assist the fish in recompression and to improve the fish’s chance of survival.