

PROPOSAL 225

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify sablefish bag, possession, and nonresident annual limits based on sablefish abundance in NSEI and SSEI sections, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020 (17)(A) resident: **Set** bag limit of four fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit; **no** annual limit [OF EIGHT FISH] **as a baseline. Increase baseline limits by one fish when ABC reaches 1M pounds and thereafter an additional one fish for every 100,000 pounds over 1M with a cap of six fish daily; possession limit of six fish; no size limit; no annual limit.**

5 AAC 47.020 (17)(B) nonresident: **Set** bag limit of four fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit; annual limit of eight fish; **as a baseline. Increase baseline limits by one fish when ABC reaches 1M pounds and thereafter an additional one fish for every 100,000 pounds over 1M with a cap of six fish daily; possession limit of six fish; no size limit ; annual limit of twelve fish.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial sablefish ABC (Allowable Biological Catch) in the NSEI (Northern Southeast Inside) Subdistrict and SSEI (Southern Southeast Inside) Subdistrict have shown an increase in recent years, while resident and non-resident sport anglers bag limits have not changed since they were originally established in 2009. Recreational angler opportunity should be linked to abundance as done with the commercial sablefish AHO (Allowable Harvest Opportunity). A cap in bag limits would ensure sport harvest would not exceed sport/commercial allocation percentages similar to that of other sport fish species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Charter Association (HQ-F20-004)

**Proposal 225 was corrected 11/16/2020 to remove the eight fish resident annual limit.*
