

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Require all anglers releasing nonpelagic rockfish to release them at depth, and require at least one deep water release mechanism on board vessels used by sport anglers, as follows:

The regulation to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth as written for guided anglers should be extended to apply to all sport fishers, including the requirement to have on board at least one operable at-depth release mechanism.

All sport-caught non-pelagic rockfish that are intended to be released must be released at the depth they were caught or at least 100', whichever is shallower.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently only guided fishers are required to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth. Statistically it is estimated that there is as much as an 80% survival rate for non-pelagic rockfish that are released at depth. While it is not practical for the commercial fishery to release at depth, there is no reason why all other sport harvesters should not also be required to release non-pelagics at depth in order to conserve the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-016)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 47.065. Demersal shelf rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management. Repeal mandatory retention requirements for nonpelagic rockfish, as follows:

[ALL NON-PELAGIC ROCKFISH CAUGHT MUST BE RETAINED UNTIL THE BAG LIMIT IS REACHED.]

No other changes to the regulation would be required.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, guided fishers are required to retain all non-pelagic rockfish until the limit is reached, after which, if additional non-pelagic rockfish are caught they must be released at depth.

Often very small non-pelagic rockfish are caught, retained and wasted because they are too small to salvage any practical amount of meat after being fileted. They are considered simply not worth the effort.

In addition to smaller rockfish, it is common for larger non-pelagic rockfish to be caught while targeting other species. The fact the angler is targeting other species often indicates that rockfish are an unintended and unwanted catch. Rockfish are not allowed to be retained by crew. Under current regulations non-pelagic rockfish must be retained until a limit is achieved, whether they are wanted or not, often resulting in undesired retention and unnecessary mortalities.

The harvest and waste of non-pelagic rockfish can be prevented if the regulations allowed discretion in the release at depth of such rockfish prior to achieving a limit. Release at depth is

estimated to result in 80% survivability, but a rockfish retained results in 100% mortality. The resulting waste causes frustration to clients and guides alike, and calls into question the practicality of the regulation as written.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-011)

PROPOSAL 145 - 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. Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use Area and Ketchikan Area nonpelagic rockfish regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g)(1)(B) is repealed:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.,

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(B) **repealed** / / [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN ONE MAY BE A YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH];

5 AAC 47.021(j)(1) is repealed:

(j) In the vicinity of Ketchikan:

(1) **repealed** / / [IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL, CLARENCE STRAIT, TONGASS NARROWS, NICHOLS PASSAGE, GEORGE INLET, CARROLL INLET, THORNE ARM, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL, AND ALL CONTIGUOUS WATERS ENCLOSED BY THE LATITUDE OF BUSHY POINT LIGHT (55° 44.00' N. LAT.), A LINE FROM POINT ALAVA TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HAM ISLAND, A LINE FROM CEDAR POINT TO DALL HEAD TO A POINT IN MIDSTREAM CLARENCE STRAIT AT THE LATITUDE OF DALL HEAD (55° 07.12' N. LAT.) TO CAAMANO POINT, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN ONE MAY BE A YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonpelagic rockfish regulations in the Sitka Sound Special Use and Ketchikan areas have been superseded by more conservative regulations established by regional emergency orders. Emergency orders have been issued annually since 2006 to manage for the sport fishery allocation, and are expected to be

issued annually for the foreseeable future. Nonpelagic rockfish regulations specific to the Sitka Sound Special Use and Ketchikan areas are no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F14-091)
