

PROPOSAL 228

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.

Reduce the nonpelagic rockfish bag and possession limits and prohibit the retention of yelloweye rockfish by nonresidents in the SSEI Section, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020

(8) rockfish January 1-December 31

(B) non-pelagic rockfish; bag and possession limit of 1 fish per day; no retention of yelloweye by non-residents in SSEI.

The fishery has been managed under emergency order (EO) for numerous years, so it is unclear how to accurately address existing and proposed specific language, so intent language is provided

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Department has been managing section (8) (B) bag limits for rockfish under EO authority for numerous years, and for the calendar year 2020, has prohibited the retention of nonpelagic rockfish in all waters of southeast. Data used to justify this action is based on commercial harvest records from southeast outside waters, and based on yelloweye rockfish biomass and then applied those findings to all management areas and types of nonpelagic rockfish. Department data shows that the majority of the harvest of yelloweye by sportfishermen is from non-resident harvest. We would like the Department to take a stairstep approach to cutting possession limits, and if necessary due to conservation concerns, have the BOF adopt a differential harvest limit for residents and non-residents. We would also like the Department to gather better data on local stocks by implementing some type of log book requirement for anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F20-046)
