

PROPOSAL 229

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 lingcod bag, possession, size, and annual limits for nonresidents in the Central Southeast Outside Waters section, as follows:

LINGCOD

- Season: May 16–November 30.
- Charter operators and crew members may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.
- [NORTHERN] **Central** Southeast **Outside Waters** Lingcod Area:
- Alaska Residents—No size limit: 1 per day, 2 in possession.
- Nonresidents—1 per day, 1 in possession; [30–35 INCHES] **30 – 45 inches**, or 55 inches and longer, annual limit of 2 fish, one of which is [30–35 INCHES] **30 – 45 inches** in length, and one that is 55 inches or greater in length, harvest record required.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current Lingcod regulations for non-resident anglers in central southeast Alaska outside waters (CSEO) allows harvest of one fish 30-35 inches, and one 55 inches or greater in length. The 30-35 inch slot is very narrow and it is challenging for non-resident’s to have an opportunity to harvest a legal Lingcod even over a multiday effort. Harvesting a trophy Lingcod greater than 55 inches is very rare. Department data shows that under the current slot limit (instituted in 2007), that sport harvest in CSEO waters has been under allocation for all years (2007-2019), with the exception of the year 2014 where allocation was reached. Further, the Department has lumped CSEO Lingcod management with northern southeast Alaska outside waters (NSEO) which is problematic because the NSEO has met or has been over allocation for the years 2003-2006, and 2014. Managing CSEO and NSEO together is likely preventing anglers in the CSEO Lingcod area from meeting harvest allocation and has reduced reasonable opportunity for non-resident anglers.

I propose that in effort to get CSEO sport Lingcod back in line with allocation, and to provide a more reasonable opportunity for non-resident anglers to retain a Lingcod, that the Board of Fish should consider taking the following action, 1) direct the Department to manage CSEO separate from NSEO, 2) increases the slot limit to 30-45 inches in CSEO waters.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-088)
