

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Reduce rockfish limits in Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay as follows:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, and unless otherwise specified in this chapter, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area:

...

(6) rockfish: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of **three** [FIVE] fish and **six** [10] in possession, of which only one per day and two in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish as defined in 5 AAC 75.995; no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to federal changes in rules for halibut sport fishing, rockfish have been increasingly targeted as an opportunity for sport fishing harvest. This harvest has increased from an average of 16,654 total of pelagic/non Pelagic in 2006-13 to a unsustainable average of 50,484 in years 2019-2021. Sampling harvest by ADFG has shown data that nearly 75% of harvested rockfish in LCI are juvenile fish. This indicates current harvest levels may not be unsustainable for the resource.

This would bring regulations in line with other areas in the state and is consistent with the ADF&G Statewide Rockfish Initiative's Conservation Tools.

Estimates from ADFG from charter logbooks and port sampling suggest the reduction could decrease the harvest by 29%.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F23-109)
