

**PROPOSAL 20**

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

Reduce Lower Cook Inlet rockfish sport limits as follows:

Current Lower Cook Inlet Saltwater Regulations for sport fishing:

5 per day, 10 in possession, only 1 per day, 2 in possession may be no pelagic

Proposed Change:

4 per day, 8 in possession, only 1 per day, 2 in possession may be non pelagic.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** RE: Lower Cook Inlet Saltwater Rockfish Regulations

Current ADFG data for Lower Cook Inlet Saltwater Rockfish show that harvest has increased in the recreational and guided-recreational fisheries. Data also has shown declining average age in retained catch. Average age of retained catch is now below average spawning age and indicates current harvest rate may be unsustainable. Lower daily bag and possession limits may reduce harvest rate and result in more sustainable harvest. Long term fishery access should be prioritized given current data.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Charter Association

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