

PROPOSAL 24

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

Remove limits for spiny dogfish in Cook Inlet waters as follows:

Southcentral Alaska 2022 Sport Fishing Reg. Booklet Pg. 73

Spiny Dogfish

No limit

***Retention or release not mandatory**

[5 PER DAY, 5 IN POSSESSION.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this proposal is to address the rapid increase in the numbers and expanded territory of Spiny Dogfish we have witnessed over the past decade in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay waters. Simultaneously, we have seen declines in other food fish such as Halibut, Pacific Cod, herring, and Rock fish. The Spiny Dogfish predation also extends to other smaller feeder fish, young Octopus, young squid, sand lances, etc. that our food fish rely on for nourishment, growth and production. I would submit to you that the increase in Spiny Dogfish predation in these waters have become an important factor in the declines we are witnessing in other species and should be dealt with as such. Much in the way that we deal with Pike in our salmon streams and lakes in Southcentral Alaska. Now days, when surf fishing from Cook Inlet beaches anytime after June 10 through the end of October, you will catch these dogfish one after another and the same can be said for boat fishermen out of Deep Creek or Anchor Point in many areas. There has to be thousands of them in the inlet for this to occur in this fashion. Many boat fishermen complain that they are catching more dogfish now than Halibut and catching Pacific Cod is virtually a thing of the past.

What would happen if nothing is changed: Their numbers will continue to increase and this will continue to contribute to declines in other important food fish that fishermen, both sport and commercial, rely on.

What are other solutions you considered: Designing a commercial fishery for Spiny Dogfish to help keep their numbers in check and get some value from them. Several board cycles back, the board received a proposal such as this but rejected it for some reason.

PROPOSED BY: Dwight Kramer

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