

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC XX.XXX New Section. Pelagic rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management.

Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish, as follows:

Direct the department to confine EO restrictions to non-resident anglers and hold resident anglers harmless unless residents are harvesting at least half of the sport catch:

5 AAC 47.020-General provisions for season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and method and means for the salt waters of SE Alaska Area.

(8) rockfish may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:

1. pelagic rockfish: bag limit of five fish, possession limit of 10 fish, no annual limit; **Unless the resident harvest of pelagic rockfish has exceeded 50% of the sport harvest for 2 consecutive years, the department shall not use EO authority to reduce resident limits or season length.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to a decade-long trend of increasing harvest of pelagic rockfish by non-residents, beginning in 2016 ADFG repeatedly used EO authority to reduce bag limits for non-residents and residents in Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) alike. In 2018, the BoF specifically refuted that practice by amending ADFG-sponsored proposal 127 which would have permanently reduced the bag limit for all anglers from 5 fish to 3 fish, with RC406 which affirmed the historic 5 fish limit for residents while dropping the non-resident limit to 3.

However, lacking the authority to hold resident anglers harmless as the increase in non-resident harvest resumed, in 2023 ADFG again used EO authority to reduce the CSEO resident and nonresident bag limits. The Sitka AC would like the BoF to authorize the department to prioritize resident access of pelagic rockfish and to direct the department to refrain from reducing resident limits of pelagic rockfish as a means of addressing increased harvest by non-residents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC supported proposal 127 in 2018 which was very similar.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka AC

(EF-F24-019)
