

**PROPOSAL 210**

**5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020(8)(A) is amended to read:

...

(A) pelagic rockfish: bag limit of **three** [FIVE] fish; possession limit of **six** [10] fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The sport harvest of pelagic rockfish has been on an increasing trend in the Southeast Alaska region and is assumed to be associated with shifting patterns of effort by charter (guided) anglers as restrictions on Pacific halibut and king salmon have been in effect. The department is currently working to develop a stock assessment for black rockfish in Southeast Alaska through the Statewide Rockfish Initiative. The anticipated continued increase in harvest and the potential for overexploitation of pelagic rockfish warrants a precautionary management approach.

The harvest of pelagic rockfish has increased in Southeast Alaska despite recent action to reduce harvest opportunity in the Sitka area where the majority of pelagic rockfish have historically been harvested. Rockfish harvest in the vicinity of Prince of Wales Island and the Ketchikan Areas have continued to increase and are now nearing the levels of pelagic rockfish harvest observed in the Sitka Area before management action was taken.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-179)

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