

PROPOSAL 176

5 AAC 75.XXX. New section Regulatory Language here.

Allow anglers fishing from the same vessel to pool bag and possession limits , as follows:

Proposed Amendment to 5 AAC 75.0XX – Saltwater Vessel Bag Limit

(a) Saltwater Vessel Bag Limit. In salt waters and onboard any vessel (Including those which meets the registration requirements of 5 AAC 75.07), any species of finfish, including halibut, may be taken by individuals which hold a valid Alaska sport fishing license or are otherwise exempt from licensing requirements in individual bag and season limits under 5 AAC 47 - 5 AAC 74, and may be taken as a part of a bag limit which is cumulative for all individuals onboard the vessel who hold an Alaska sport fishing license or are otherwise exempt from licensing requirements.

- (1) For purposes of this section, no individual may retain any finfish for which they have retained their seasonal limit under 5 AAC 47 – 5 AAC 74.
- (2) For purposes of this section, no individual may possess finfish greater than the number allowed for the water on which they are fishing.
- (3) For purposes of this section, on any vessel which meets the registration requirements of 5 AAC 75.07, any finfish harvested under 5 AAC 47 – 5 AAC 74 by crew must be labeled or identified as crew fish.
- (4) For purposes of this section, on any vessel which meets the registration requirements of 5 AAC 75.07, crew are prohibited from giving all or part of their individual limit of finfish harvested under 5 AAC 47 – 5 AAC 74 to any passenger during or after a trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Cumulative bag limits for all licensed or otherwise exempt individuals on board vessels fishing in salt waters. Cumulative bag limits will reduce release mortality on all species, reduce fuel consumption, and increase food security of Alaska residents and nonresidents fishing off of saltwater vessels. Further, cumulative bag limits will simplify enforcement while having no effect on regulations for recording of catch and discard.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. South East Alaska Guide’s Organization (SEAGO), and local saltwater anglers in Homer, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Ritchie, Homer Charter Association (EF-F26-160)
