

DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

- Upon request by a Department representative or state peace officer, anglers must forfeit the heads of any salmon or trout with external or internal tags or an adipose finclip along with the date and location of catch.

LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS

- Unless otherwise provided by regulation or statute, a person who violates a provision of these regulations is strictly liable for the offense, regardless of that person's intent.

PROHIBITED ACTS**CLOSED WATERS/ WATERS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING:**

- Unless otherwise provided by area regulations: (a) the waters within 300 feet of a fish weir or fish ladder are closed to sport fishing, unless a lesser or greater distance is indicated by Department markers; and (b) it is unlawful to cast, drift, or place by any means a hook, bait, lure, or fly into waters closed to sport fishing.

**FELT-SOLED BOOTS PROHIBITED:**

- The use of footgear with absorbent felt or other fibrous material on the soles is prohibited while sport or **personal use** fishing in fresh water.

GAFFS PROHIBITED:

- A gaff may not be used to puncture any fish intended or required to be released.

MOLESTING OF FISH:

- Molesting or impeding spawning or the natural movement of fish contrary to lawful methods and means of sport fishing is prohibited.

**POSSESSION, TRANSPORT, OR MARKING OF LIVE FISH, EGGS, OR AQUATIC ORGANISMS:**

- It is unlawful, except in accordance with the provisions listed on page 7 under "Use of Sport-Caught Fish as Bait," or in compliance with the terms of a permit issued by the Commissioner for a person to collect, transport, possess, propagate, export, mark in any way, or release into the waters or the lands of the state, any live fish, fish eggs, or aquatic organism.
- It is unlawful for a person to possess any part of a Class A banned invasive species, including reproductive or genetic material, at any stage of its life cycle, except as follows: (1) when transporting a specimen to any department office or another location as directed by the department in a sealed container for the purpose of containing, identifying, or reporting the presence of the species or (2) under the provisions of an aquatic resource permit. A person may not possess any live Class B banned invasive species at any stage of its life cycle. See page 46 for Class A & B definitions.

SALE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH PROHIBITED:

- No person may buy, sell, or barter sport-caught fish or their parts.

SNAGGING IN FRESH WATER PROHIBITED:

- It is unlawful to intentionally snag or attempt to snag any fish in fresh water.
- "Snag" means to hook a fish elsewhere than in its mouth. A fish unintentionally hooked elsewhere than its mouth must be released immediately.

USE OF EXPLOSIVES OR TOXICANTS:

- The use of any toxicant or explosive is prohibited in the taking of any fish in the waters of Alaska, except that a shaft tipped with an explosive charge (commonly known as a bangstick or powerhead) or a firearm may be used on board a vessel in salt water to dispatch a fish caught with legal gear.

WASTE OF FISH:

- The intentional waste or destruction of any species of sport-caught fish is prohibited.

METHODS AND MEANS**FRESH WATER SPORT FISHING:**

- Fish may not be taken in fresh water by means of:
 - Fixed or weighted hooks and lures (except those of standard manufacture);
 - Multiple hooks with gap between point and shank larger than ½ inch;
 - Spear, unless permitted by area regulations; or arrow, unless permitted by area regulations.
 - **Spearguns are not legal gear in fresh waters.**

ICE FISHING GEAR:

- Sport fishing through the ice is permitted using two closely attended lines, provided only one hook or artificial lure is used on each line, except that additional gear may be used for northern pike and burbot as specified in statewide or area regulations.
- The maximum number of lines/hooks that an angler may deploy is not cumulative and is equal to the maximum number of lines/hooks allowed for any species. The number of lines/hooks used to target a species may not exceed the number allowed for that species. For example, in a lake where regulations allow 5 set lines for burbot and 2 lines under the ice for northern pike, the maximum number of lines you may fish is 5 (not $5 + 2 = 7$); and when setting your 5 lines, only 2 of them may be placed to target northern pike.

SNAGGING IN SALT WATER:

- Unless otherwise prohibited under area regulation, snagging is allowed in salt water.

SPORT FISHING GEAR:

- Unless otherwise provided in regulation, sport fishing may be conducted only by use of:
 - A closely attended single line attached to not more than one plug; one spoon; one spinner or series of spinners; two artificial flies; or two hooks.
 - The line must be closely attended, unless unattended setlines for burbot are allowed per area regulations.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR BURBOT:

- Unless otherwise provided by area regulations, burbot may be taken in fresh water with more than one line and hook, provided:
 - The total aggregate number of hooks may not exceed 15 or the daily bag limit for burbot in the waters being fished, whichever is less.
 - Hooks are single hooks with gap between point and shank larger than 3/4 inch.
 - Each hook is set to rest on the bottom of the lake or stream.
 - Each line is identified with angler's name and address.
 - Each line is physically inspected at least once in each 24-hour period.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR HERRING AND SMELT:

- In salt water, herring and smelt may be taken with the use of 15 or less unbaited, single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR NORTHERN PIKE:

- Unless otherwise provided by the area regulations, northern pike may be taken by spear.
- Northern pike may not be retained if caught on set lines.

SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR SQUID:

- Squid may be taken with the use of not more than two squid jigs attached to a single line. See page 47 for definition of a squid jig. Standard sport fishing gear may also be used to target squid, see page 6.

USE OF ATTRACTOR (BEAD):

- An attractor, including a bead, when used with an artificial fly, artificial lure, or bare hook, must be:
 - Either fixed within two inches of the bare hook, fly, or lure,
 - Or be free sliding on the line or leader.
 - A bead fished on the line above a bare single hook is legal gear in waters where only flies may be used.

NEW USE OF UNDERWATER SPEAR (SALT WATER):

- **Subject to applicable seasons and bag and possession limits, a person who is completely submerged or swimming on the surface may use a spear or speargun in salt water to take fish if the spear or speargun is not tipped with an explosive charge.**

SPORT FISH GUIDING

- All individuals and businesses who are providing sport fishing guide services must register and obtain a guide and/or business registration with ADF&G before guiding clients.
- All sport charter vessels used for the guided taking of fish or shellfish in fresh or salt water must have a current Division of Motor Vehicles boat registration number or USCG documentation number and an ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel decal with the current year renewal sticker.
- Decals must be displayed in plain sight on each side of the vessel any time sport fishing guide services are taking place.
- Additional information on requirements for sport fish guides and businesses can be found online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.main.

USE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH AS BAIT

- Unless provided for in this section, fish taken under sport fishing regulations may not be used as bait, except;
 - Herring and whitefish may be used as bait.
 - Species for which bag limits, seasons, or other regulatory methods and means are not provided in sport fishing regulations may be used as bait.
 - The head, tail, fins, and viscera of legally taken sport fish, may be used as bait.
- Live fish may not be used as bait for sport fishing in fresh water.
- Live herring and other species for which no seasonal or harvest limits are specified in sport fishing regulations may be used as live bait in salt water.
- Live bait may be possessed, transported, or released only in the salt waters of the regulatory area in which it was taken.

POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH

- Sport-caught fish, their parts, and articles manufactured from such fish may be possessed within the state by any person at any time, and may be transported within and exported out of the state by any person at any time, except that no person may possess any unpreserved fish, or part of one, not legally taken by the angler, unless the angler furnishes, upon request of any peace officer of the state, a statement signed by the person taking the fish stating the type of fish, number of fish, location, date taken, and license number. The statement is unnecessary if the person possessing the fish is accompanied by the person who took the fish. See Transfer of Possession Form on page 44. No person may possess fish which were not legally taken.
- A person may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which that person is fishing.
- Upon request by an employee of the department, or a peace officer of the state, a person must present for inspection any fish taken or possessed by the person in a sport fishery.
- Upon request by an employee of the department or a peace officer of the state, a person while taking fish must present, for inspection, any apparatus designed to be or capable of being used to take fish in a sport fishery.

POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT HALIBUT

- Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty.
- Federal possession and landing requirements for sport-caught halibut differ from state regulations. Possession includes unpreserved AND preserved fish for halibut, but possession limits only apply in saltwaters.
- **Transfer of Possession forms are not valid for halibut.**
- Consult federal regulations for halibut bag, size, and possession limits for guided (charter) anglers; and possession and landing requirements.
- Federal halibut regulations are available through NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region at (907) 586-7228. www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut