

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-08-20

Issued at: Sitka, Wednesday, April 1,
2020.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday,
April 3, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
January 31, 2021 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits retention of the nonpelagic rockfish species: *S. pinniger* (Canary); *S. nebulosus* (China); *S. caurinus* (Copper); *S. maliger* (Quillback); *S. helvomaculatus* (Rosethorn); *S. nigrocinctus* (Tiger); *S. ruberrimus* (Yelloweye); while providing a limited harvest opportunity for the remaining *Sebastes* species of nonpelagic rockfish.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-04-20 issued December 30, 2019 is rescinded and the provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(8)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 3, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, January 31, 2021:

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

(8)(B) nonpelagic rockfish:

(i) the retention of the following *Sebastes* species of nonpelagic rockfish is prohibited: *S. pinniger* (Canary); *S. nebulosus* (China); *S. caurinus* (Copper); *S. maliger* (Quillback); *S. helvomaculatus* (Rosethorn); *S. nigrocinctus* (Tiger); *S. ruberrimus* (Yelloweye);

(ii) for the species of the genus *Sebastes* not specified in 8(A) or 8(B)(i) of this section; bag and possession limit of one fish, no annual limit, no size limit;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In December 2019, Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-04-20 was issued to prohibit the retention of all nonpelagic rockfish during 2020. This action was taken to ensure the sustainability of *S. pinniger* (Canary); *S. nebulosus* (China); *S. caurinus* (Copper); *S. maliger* (Quillback); *S. helvomaculatus* (Rosethorn); *S. nigrocinctus* (Tiger); *S. ruberrimus* (Yelloweye). Despite

increasingly conservative management actions, surveys indicated decreasing yelloweye rockfish biomass (used an indicator for this group of *Sebastes* species) while annual trends in biological data (length, weight, and age by sex) revealed truncation of age classes, thus reducing reproductive potential and increasing uncertainty for future recruitment of juveniles. Restrictive management actions in the Southeast Alaska sport fishery continue to be necessary to protect the sustainability of these species.

Historically all nonpelagic rockfish have been managed as a species group. However, this action is being taken to provide limited opportunity for sport anglers to target other species of nonpelagic rockfish which do not share the same conservation concern as canary, China, copper, quillback, rosethorn, tiger, and yelloweye rockfish. The sport harvest of the remaining *Sebastes* species of nonpelagic rockfish has historically been very low.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.