

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-05-25

Issued at: Petersburg, Wednesday,
February 26, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
December 31, 2025, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies demersal shelf rockfish sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and establishes annual limits for demersal shelf rockfish in the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(8)(C) and (D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, March 1 to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2025:

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) rockfish may be taken from January 1 – December 31, as follows;

(C) demersal shelf rockfish:

(i) resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

(ii) nonresident: demersal shelf rockfish may be taken from July 1 – August 25; bag limit of one fish; possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish;

(D) yelloweye rockfish: seasons, bag, possession, and annual limit for yelloweye rockfish are included in the limits for demersal shelf rockfish in 5 AAC 47.020(8)(C);

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Patrick Fowler
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In January 2025, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified sport fishing regulations for demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska to allow for limited harvest opportunity for resident and nonresident anglers, this emergency order implements those actions for the 2025 fishing season.

In 2020, the demersal shelf rockfish fishery in Southeast Alaska was closed due to conservation concerns. Since 2021, stock assessments in Southeast Outside Waters indicate an increasing trend in yelloweye rockfish biomass. While limited opportunity is being provided, restrictive management actions in the Southeast Alaska sport fishery continue to be necessary to protect the sustainability of these species.

A fishing season has been established for nonresident anglers from July 1 – August 25 for all Southeast Alaska marine waters. These actions protect yelloweye rockfish during their reproductive cycle, which mostly occurs during early summer. These regulations are also designed to ensure that the sport harvest of demersal shelf rockfish stays within the sport allocation for Southeast Outside Waters under the authority granted to the department within the *Demersal shelf rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management* (5 AAC 47.065).

The additional harvest opportunity for residents only applies within Alaska state waters (0-3 nautical miles from shore). In the waters of the exclusive economic zone, all anglers must comply with the regulations established for nonresident anglers, including those established by this emergency order.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.