

PROPOSAL 116

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

Establish a regional sablefish nonresident annual limit, as follows:

Restrict Sablefish (Black Cod) as follows:

All areas: [Chatham Strait and Lower Lynn Canal - District 12]

-no size restrictions

-nonresident - 4 daily, 4 in possession, 8 fish annual limit, harvest record required

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An annual bag limit will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource while maintaining angler opportunity to harvest sablefish. Sablefish are a commercially valuable species that have been fully utilized since 1991. Significant sport fishing pressure is a recent occurrence that has increased steadily, with estimated harvests nearly tripling from 2010's estimated harvest of 4,793 fish to 2015's estimated harvest of 13,338 fish. Sablefish biomass is stable, but near historic lows in abundance. Considering this and changing ocean conditions, it is important to carefully manage all user groups to prevent unrestrained growth in harvests. There is currently no limit on entry for sablefish anglers or guides. This proposal allows for angler opportunity, does not limit the number of people that can participate, and ensures reasonable management of a new user group in a fully utilized fishery.

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