

Submitted at the request of Board Member John Jensen by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

March 15, 2022

Substitute language for proposal 225:

5 AAC 47.020(17)(B) is amended to read:

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

(17) sable fish: may be taken from January 1 – December 31, as follows:

(A) resident: Bag limit of four fish; possession limit of four fish; no annual limit; no size limit

(B) nonresident: bag limit of two [FOUR] fish; possession limit of two [FOUR] fish; no size limit; annual limit of four [EIGHT] fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Rationale:

The BOF first adopted sablefish bag limits in 2009 with non-resident bag, possession and annual limits at the levels included in this substitute language (Sitka meeting). At that time, the NSEI sablefish commercial catch limit (or annual harvest objective—AHO) was 1.5 million pounds (2008 data available to Board at the time). The commercial catch limit (or AHO) is now 1.3 million pounds, which indicates lower bag limits are appropriate and would be consistent with both sectors sharing in conserving this recovering resource.

The NSEI commercial permit holders are 90% resident; the sablefish sport catch is 96% non-resident. Resident sport fishermen have sablefish access through personal use and subsistence.

Less than 1% of all sportfish anglers are currently reaching the annual limit.