

PROPOSAL 207

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

Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents, as follows:

Establish a bag and possession limit for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) for Non-Residents.

Non-Resident bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; annual limit of two fish; no size limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish in regulation a bag, possession and annual limit for DSR species (Quillback, Copper, Canary, China and Tiger).

There is no survey and/or data that shows a conservation concern for the DSR species. Anglers commonly catch all species of rockfish in SE AK and the inability to harvest these species is a lost opportunity to the sport fishery. Most anglers agree that all the DSR rockfish are excellent table fare and readily abundant. The mandatory use of deep water release mechanisms has significantly reduced release mortality.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, but this prop is being submitted on behalf of myself. A daily bag limit of 1 fish and an annual bag limit of 2 fish is very reasonable.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Whitehead

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