

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Prohibit charter operators and crew from retaining king salmon and rockfish while clients are on board the vessel, as follows:

Mirror Southeast and Kodiak Alaska sport regulations as well as the federal halibut regulation by prohibiting charter captain and crew from retaining sport caught king salmon or rockfish.

5 AAC 55.022.

(2) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31, as follows:

(A) in fresh waters, as follows:

(i) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish;

(ii) king salmon less than 20 inches in length; bag and possession limit of 10 fish;

(B) in the salt waters; bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit;

(i)Charter operators and crew members may not retain king salmon while clients are on board the vessel.

(9) rockfish:

(A) may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of four fish; possession limit of eight fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit;

(i)Charter operators and crew members may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

(B) repealed 3/29/2018;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sport harvest of saltwater king salmon and rockfish is ever increasing according to ADFG's sport fish harvest and effort estimates for North Gulf Coast/Prince William Sound. In 2022 the sport harvest of rockfish was 99,569 Fish and the saltwater sport harvest of king salmon was 7,113 fish. In 2012 the sport harvest of rockfish was 68,337 Fish and saltwater sport harvest of king salmon was 3,044 fish. This 45% increase in rockfish harvest and 130% increase in king salmon harvest in 10 years demands attention by the board. A portion of this increased harvest is the result of the ever-growing charter fleet. Currently the charter fleet captains, and crew are allowed to retain their own limit of sport caught rockfish and king salmon every trip they go on. Regulations forbidding charter captains and crew from retaining rockfish and king salmon have been put in place by this board in Southeast Alaska, Kodiak and on a federal level for halibut in the halibut fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This Proposal was discussed and submitted by the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee

(HQ-F24-070)
