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**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
ALASKA**

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Shellene Hutter, Program Coordinator 2
Department of Fish and Game

FROM: April Simpson, Alaska Administrative Code Coordinator *AS*
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

DATE: May 8, 2025

RE: Filed Permanent Regulations: Department of Fish and Game

Department of Fish and Game regulations re: Prince William Sound Fisheries December 2024 Meeting (5 AAC 01 - 77)

Attorney General File:	2025200104
Regulation Filed:	5/8/2025
Effective Date:	6/7/2025
Print:	254, July 2025

cc with enclosures: Beth Parsons, Paralegal 2
Department of Law

Bob Dame, Alaska Legal Analyst
LexisNexis



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Law

CIVIL DIVISION

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May 8, 2025

The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom
Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

Re: 5 AAC 01 - 77: DFG - Prince William Sound Fisheries December 2024
Meeting
Our file: 2025200104

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

The Department of Law has reviewed the attached regulations of the Board of Fisheries against the statutory standards of the Administrative Procedure Act. Based upon our review, we find no legal problems. This letter constitutes the written statement of approval under AS 44.62.060(b) and (c) that authorizes your office to file the attached regulations. The regulations were adopted by the Board of Fisheries after the close of the public comment period.

The regulations amend Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code to update requirements related to fisheries in the Prince William Sound area. The updates include changes to various means and methods standards, setting requirements for Dungeness crab fishing, establishing a Prince William Sound District and Kayak Island District, updating limits related to food and bait fisheries, updating various commercial harvest requirements, and clarifying octopus fishery permitting and gear standards.

Both the November 3, 2024 public notice and February 24, 2025 order certifying the changes to regulations state that this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation. Therefore, a fiscal note under AS 44.62.060 is not required.

We have made some technical corrections to conform the regulations in accordance with AS 44.62.060. After incorporating the corrections, the final regulations are 21 pages, not 22 pages as stated in the certification order.

Sincerely,

TREG TAYLOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Rebecca C. Polizzotto
Rebecca C. Polizzotto
Chief Assistant Attorney General
Legislation, Regulations, and
Legislative Research Section

Digitally signed by
Rebecca C. Polizzotto
Date: 2025.05.08
13:58:58 -08'00'

RCP/BWS

CC w/enclosure: Shellene Hutter
Department of Fish and Game

Aaron Peterson, Assistant Attorney General
Department of Law

Brad Sharp, Assistant Attorney General
Department of Law

**ORDER CERTIFYING THE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS
OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

The attached ²¹~~22~~ pages of regulations, changes to 5 AAC for subsistence, sport, commercial and personal use fisheries occurring in the Prince William Sound area are certified to be a correct copy of the regulation changes that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted at its public hearing held from December 10th – 15th in Cordova, Alaska under the authority of AS 16.05.251 and after compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), specifically including notice under AS 44.62.190 and 44.62.200 and opportunity for public comment under AS 44.62.210.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

On the record, in considering public comments, the Alaska Board of Fisheries paid special attention to the cost to private persons of the regulatory action being taken.

The regulation changes described in this order take effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the lieutenant governor, as provided in AS 44.62.180.

DATE: 2/24/2025
Anchorage, Alaska

DocuSigned by:
Doug Vincent-Lang
32E3FEFE58284DB...

Douglas S. Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game

Kevin Simpson

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on

May 8, 2025 at 3:51 p.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.040 - 44.62.120.

for Amy B...
Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska

Effective: June 7, 2025

Register: 254, July 2025

FOR DELEGATION OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY

I, NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, designate the following state employees to perform the Administrative Procedures Act filing functions of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor:

April Simpson, Regulations and Initiatives Specialist

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
signed and affixed the Seal of the State of
Alaska, in Juneau, on May 15th, 2023.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nancy Dahlstrom", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**NANCY DAHLSTROM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Title 5. Fish and Game.

Chapter 01. Subsistence Finfish Fishery.

5 AAC 01.620(h) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(4) sablefish may be taken with not more than two groundfish pots.

(In effect before 1983; am 6/30/83, Register 86; am 4/28/84, Register 90; am 4/30/91, Register 118; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126; am 5/24/97, Register 142; am 3/30/2000, Register 153; am 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 6/12/2003, Register 166; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 3/27/2022, Register 241; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

((Note to Publisher: please move the "and" connector from the end of 5 AAC 01.620(h)(2) to the end of 5 AAC 01.620(h)(3) and change the period at the end of 5 AAC 01.620(h)(3) to a semicolon.)))

5 AAC 01.630(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in this section, fish other than salmon, herring, sablefish, and freshwater fish species may be taken for subsistence purposes without a subsistence fishing permit.

5 AAC 01.630(b) is amended to read:

(b) Salmon, herring, sablefish, and freshwater fish species may be taken only under authority of a subsistence fishing permit.

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5 AAC 01.630 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(k) The department will only issue one sablefish subsistence fishing permit to each household a year. A permit holder shall record sablefish harvest information on a harvest recording form provided by the department. (In effect before 1982; am 4/14/82, Register 82; am 4/28/84, Register 90; am 6/2/88, Register 106; am 4/9/89, Register 110; em am 6/6/89 - 10/3/89, Register 111; am 4/30/91, Register 118; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126; am 5/24/97, Register 142; am 3/30/2000, Register 153; am 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 6/12/2003, Register 166; am 12/1/2004, Register 172; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 9/19/2019, Register 231; add'l am 9/19/2019, Register 231; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

Chapter 02. Subsistence Shellfish Fishery.

5 AAC 02.207(3) is amended to read:

(3) **not** [NO] more than two pots **a** [PER] person with a maximum of two pots **each** [PER] vessel may be used to take king or Tanner crab, **except that in waters north of 60° 00.00' N. lat., and east of 147° 00.00' W. long., not more than two pots a person with a maximum of eight pots each vessel may be used to take Tanner crab.** (Eff. 9/12/2008, Register 187; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

5 AAC 02.215 is repealed and readopted to read:

5 AAC 02.215. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery. In the Prince William Sound Area,

(1) Dungeness crab may only be taken from March 20 through May 20 and from August 25 through December 31;

(2) only male Dungeness crab six and one-half inches or greater in shoulder width may be taken or possessed; male Dungeness crab less than the minimum size established under this paragraph and female Dungeness crab must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;

(3) the daily bag and possession limit is 12 male Dungeness crab;

(4) a pot used to take Dungeness crab under this section must have at least two escape rings, each with an inside diameter of not less than four and three-eighths inches; the escape rings must be located on opposite sides of the pot and the upper half of the vertical pane of the pot; and

(5) a person must obtain a subsistence crab permit from the department prior to taking Dungeness crab. (In effect before 1988; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

5 AAC 02.236 is repealed:

5 AAC 02.236. Closed waters. Repealed. (Eff. 6/7/95, Register 135; am 9/29/95, Register 135; am 9/12/2008, Register 187; am 9/28/2008, Register 187; repealed 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Chapter 24. Prince William Sound Area.

5 AAC 24.310(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Copper River District may only [IS] open after May 21 [AND CLOSED] by emergency order and may be closed by emergency order.

(In effect before 1988; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 24.361(d)(1) is amended to read:

(1) the annual limit for king salmon is one fish; king salmon may not be taken before June 30;

(Eff. 5/24/97, Register 142; am 3/30/2000, Register 153; am 5/14/2000, Register 154; am

5/11/2003, Register 166; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am

3/29/2015, Register 213; am 3/27/2022, Register 241; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

Chapter 27. Herring Fishery.

5 AAC 27.300 is amended to read:

5 AAC 27.300. Description of Prince William Sound Area. The Prince William Sound Area includes all waters of Alaska between 148° 50.25' W. long., (near Cape Fairfield) and 144° 00.00' W. long., (near Cape Suckling) [HAS AS ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE FAIRFIELD, AS ITS EASTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE SUCKLING AND AS ITS SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

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59° N. LAT]. (In effect before 1988; am 5/31/98, Register 146; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 27 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 27.306. Description of Prince William Sound Area districts (a) Prince William

Sound District: all waters of the Prince William Sound Area, excluding the Kayak Island District.

(b) Kayak Island District: all waters from a line from a point at 60° 01.16' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 57.98' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 44.29' N. lat., 144° 36.12' W. long., to a point at 60° 17.13' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long., to Hook Point at 60° 20.11' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long. (Eff. 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 27 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 27.345. Harvest strategies for the Kayak Island District. The Kayak Island District may be opened to commercial fishing on an exploratory basis with no specified guideline harvest level. A Prince William Sound Area herring fishery CFEC permit holder may participate in the Kayak Island District using the gear specified on the permit holder's CFEC permit. The Kayak Island District may be opened or closed by emergency order based on inseason information such as observed stock abundance, harvest levels, or harvest patterns, including such changes in the adjacent Prince William Sound District. (Eff. 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 27.365(b) is amended to read:

(b) The management plan for herring fisheries in Prince William Sound assumes that all **Prince William Sound herring** [OF THESE] fisheries **share the** use **of** a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. The management year for herring **fisheries in Prince William Sound** is **January 1 through December 31** [JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30]. Guideline harvest levels are established before the **commercial sac roe herring fishery** [FOOD AND BAIT SEASON] in the **spring** [FALL] and are based upon the final spawning biomass estimate from the previous year, cohort analysis, and projected recruitment. The minimum spawning biomass threshold is 22,000 tons, and no fishery may be opened if the estimated spawning biomass is below this threshold level. The department may allow, based upon age class strength, a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between zero and 20 percent of the projected spawning biomass when that biomass is between 22,000 tons and 42,500 tons. The department may allow a harvest of herring at a maximum exploitation rate of 20 percent when the total projected spawning biomass is greater than 42,500 tons.

5 AAC 27.365(c)(3) is amended to read:

(3) food and bait fishery: 16.3 percent, **except that up to 80 percent of the unharvested guideline harvest level allocated to the commercial sac roe fishery season remaining after that season has concluded may be allocated to the fall food and bait fishery season as determined by the department and established by emergency order;**

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(Eff. 4/9/89, Register 110; am 4/30/91, Register 118; am 9/17/94, Register 131; am 4/24/2003, Register 166; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 27 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 27.375. Harvest of bait by commercial permit holders in the Prince William

Sound Area. (a) The holder of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit may take, but may not sell, herring for use as bait in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held as follows:

(1) herring may be taken at any time;

(2) herring may be taken by gear specified in 5 AAC 39.105;

(3) a vessel, crewmember, or permit holder that participates in an open commercial herring sac roe fishing period may not take herring under this section in a district in the Prince William Sound Area in the 72 hours before and 72 hours after an open commercial herring sac roe fishing period in the Prince William Sound Area;

(4) a person or a vessel may not take more than one ton of herring, except as provided under terms of a permit issued by the department.

(b) Herring harvested under this section will be deducted from the Prince William Sound food and bait fishery allocation under 5 AAC 27.365. (Eff. 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

Chapter 28. Groundfish Fishery.

5 AAC 28.206(c) is amended to read:

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(c) In the Inside District, a Prince William Sound CFEC sablefish permit holder [,] or the permit holder's agent **shall** [, MUST] register for the commercial sablefish fishery before 5:00 p.m. **on February 20** [APRIL 1].

(Eff. 4/4/97, Register 142; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 3/30/2003, Register 165; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 4/20/2012, Register 202; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 6/26/2016, Register 218; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 28.210(b) is amended to read:

(b) Sablefish may be taken in the Inside District **beginning when the individual fishing quota halibut season opens, through December 31, unless closed earlier by emergency order** [FROM APRIL 15 THROUGH AUGUST 31]. There is no open season for commercial sablefish fishing in the Outside District.

(Eff. 7/30/89, Register 111; am 4/7/93, Register 126; am 4/4/97, Register 142; am 6/15/97, Register 142; am 5/31/98, Register 146; am 3/30/2000, Register 153; am 7/29/2000, Register 155; am 3/30/2003, Register 165; am 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 4/20/2012, Register 202; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 6/26/2016, Register 218; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 28.230(j) is amended to read:

(j) Except as provided in (k) **and (l)** of this section, in a groundfish fishery, a person may

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only have [ONLY] one type of legal gear on board the vessel.

5 AAC 28.230 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(l) In the Prince William Sound sablefish and IFQ halibut fisheries, longlines and pots may be used at the same time. If either longlines or pots are used under this subsection, only longline and pot gear may be on board the vessel.

(m) To conserve groundfish species, the commissioner may close waters of the Prince William Sound area to commercial fishing with specific gear types by emergency order. (Eff. 7/30/89, Register 111; am 4/7/93, Register 126; am 5/22/94, Register 130; am 4/4/97, Register 142; am 5/31/98, Register 146; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 7/1/2006, Register 178; am 7/20/2006, Register 179; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 3/26/2023, Register 245; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 28.250(a) is repealed:

(a) Repealed 6 / 7 / 2025.

(Eff. 4/4/97, Register 142; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 6/20/2010, Register 194; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am 6/26/2016, Register 218; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 28.263(c) is repealed:

(c) Repealed 6 / 7 / 2025.

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5 AAC 28.263(d) is amended to read:

(d) During a directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery,

(1) the total bycatch weight of all species combined may not exceed five percent of the total round weight of the walleye pollock harvested; and

(2) salmon brought onboard the vessel must be retained.

(Eff. 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 7/1/2006, Register 178; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 6/26/2016, Register 218; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 28.265(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(5) in a directed mechanical jig or hand troll fishery, rockfish may be released only if a deep water release mechanism is used in accordance with 5 AAC 75.020(f).

(Eff. 4/7/93, Register 126; am 6/15/95, Register 134; am 4/4/97, Register 142; am 3/30/2000, Register 153; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 4/20/2012, Register 202; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 6/26/2016, Register 218; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

((Note to Publisher: please change the period at the end of 5 AAC 28.265(b)(4) to a semicolon and add an "and" connector following that same semicolon.)))

5 AAC 28.267(e)(1) is amended to read:

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Prince William Sound Area is 25 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Eastern Gulf of

Alaska Area; mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and groundfish pot gear is allocated 50 [15] percent of the guideline harvest level and longline gear is allocated 50 [85] percent of the guideline harvest level, except that if

(A) the guideline harvest level allocated to the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and groundfish pot gear is achieved [TAKEN] in a [ANY] calendar year, the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and groundfish pot gear allocation will increase by five percent beginning the following calendar year to a maximum of 75 [30] percent of the guideline harvest level and the longline allocation will decrease by a corresponding five percent the following calendar year to a minimum of 25 [70] percent of the guideline harvest level; and

(B) the guideline harvest level allocated to the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and groundfish pot gear is not achieved [TAKEN] in a [ANY] calendar year, the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and groundfish pot gear allocation will decrease by five percent beginning the following calendar year to a minimum of 25 [15] percent of the guideline harvest level and the longline allocation will increase by a corresponding five percent the following calendar year to a maximum of 75 [85] percent of the guideline harvest level;

(Eff. 4/4/97, Register 142; am 11/27/97, Register 144; am 3/30/2000, Register 153; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 5/31/2001, Register 158; am 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 3/14/2009, Register 189; am 4/20/2012, Register 202; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 3/27/2022, Register 241; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 32. Dungeness Crab Fishery.

5 AAC 32.210 is amended to read:

5 AAC 32.210. Fishing seasons for Registration Area E. In Registration Area E, in the Eastern Section of the Outer District, a commercial [THERE IS NO OPEN] fishing season for Dungeness crab **may be opened by emergency order from 12:00 p.m. March 20 through May 20 and from 12:00 p.m. August 25 through December 31** [IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA]. (In effect before 1981; am 6/26/81, Register 78; am 7/12/86, Register 99; am 9/12/97, Register 143; am 7/5/2000, Register 155 ; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 35. Tanner Crab Fishery.

5 AAC 35.308 is repealed:

5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy. Repealed. (Eff. 7/22/2017, Register 223; **am** [EFF.] 3/27/2022, Register 241; repealed 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

5 AAC 35.312 is repealed:

5 AAC 35.312. Closed waters in Registration Area E. Repealed. (Eff. 3/27/2022, Register 241; repealed 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Chapter 38. Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishery.

5 AAC 38.206 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) Before a person uses a vessel to operate octopus lair pots in the Registration Area E directed octopus fishery, the vessel's owner, or owner's agent, shall register the vessel with the department. (Eff. 5/8/98, Register 146; am 7/13/2012, Register 203; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 38.217(a) is amended to read:

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 38.062, in [IN] Registration Area E, octopus may [ONLY] be taken

(1) in a directed fishery as specified in (e) - (f) of this section; or

(2) as bycatch in pot, trawl, and longline gear in commercial fisheries [AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION].

5 AAC 38.217 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(e) A CFEC permit holder shall register for the directed octopus fishery before operating in the directed fishery.

(f) In the directed fishery, octopus may only be taken by octopus lair pots that are fished individually or on a longline. An octopus lair pot may not contain bait or attractants.

(g) Each octopus lair pot must be marked as follows:

(1) at least one buoy on each pot must be legibly marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the vessel operating the gear; the number must be

- (A) located on the top one-half of the buoy;
- (B) in numerals at least four inches high and one-half inch wide;
- (C) a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy; and
- (D) visible on the buoy above the water surface when the buoy is attached to the pot;

(2) when five or more octopus lair pots are longlined, each end of the longline must have a buoy attached that is marked as described in (1) of this subsection;

(3) on each buoy marked with the ADF&G vessel license plate number, the letters "OC" must be marked on the buoy to designate the gear as octopus lair pot gear; only the ADF&G vessel license plate number of the specific vessel operating the gear may be marked on the buoy;

(4) for the purposes of this section, "longlined" means more than one octopus lair pot is attached to a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line.

(h) If there is a closure of a directed octopus fishery, octopus lair pot gear must be removed from the water within seven days of the closure.

(i) After 24 hours following the closure of a directed octopus fishery, a vessel registered for the directed octopus fishery may not have octopus on board.

(j) Log sheets will be provided by the department at the time of registration and must be filled out completely and submitted within seven days of landing date.

(k) A prior notice of landing is required as specified on the registration and includes the

- (1) location of landing and estimated time of delivery;
- (2) name of buyer or processor, if applicable; and
- (3) estimated number of pounds of octopus on board the vessel.

(I) For the purposes of this section, "octopus lair pot" means a structure designed and constructed

(1) to be submerged to retain octopus alive in the water that does not have a device or design element that restricts or impedes exit by an octopus from the octopus lair pot;

(2) with a maximum volume of two cubic feet;

(3) with an entry perimeter not greater than nine inches tall by nine inches wide.

(Eff. 7/13/2012, Register 203; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 52. Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

5 AAC 52.022(a)(2)(A) is amended to read:

(A) from May 16 - October 31 [APRIL 16 - OCTOBER 31], only
unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 52.022(a)(2)(B) is amended to read:

(B) from November 1 - May 15 [NOVEMBER 1 - APRIL 15], only
single-hooks may be used; bait may be used;

5 AAC 52.022(b) is repealed:

(b) Repealed 6 / 7 / 2025. (Eff. 5/4/94, Register 130; am 5/5/94, Register 131; am 4/11/97, Register 142; am 7/8/99, Register 151; am 3/16/2000, Register 153; am 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 4/24/2009, Register 190; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am

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6/28/2019, Register 230; am 3/27/2022, Register 241; am 7/28/2023, Register 247; am
6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

The introductory language of 5 AAC 52.023(9)(E) is amended to read:

(E) in all waters of the Middle Fork of the Gulkana River from the outlet
of Dickey Lake to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three miles
downstream, including Hungry Hollow Creek downstream of the outlet of Wait-A-Bit
Lake and Twelvemile Creek,

...

5 AAC 52.023(13)(C) is amended to read:

(C) the bag and possession limit for burbot is two [ONE] fish, with no size
limit;

5 AAC 52.023(14)(A)(ii) is repealed:

(ii) repealed 6 / 7 / 2025;

5 AAC 52.023(15)(C) is repealed:

(C) repealed 6 / 7 / 2025;

5 AAC 52.023(17)(A) is repealed:

(A) repealed 6 / 7 / 2025;

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(Eff. 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 5/19/2004, Register 170; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 4/24/2009, Register 190; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 7/13/2012, Register 203; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 3/27/2022, Register 241; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 55. Prince William Sound Area.

5 AAC 55.022(a)(2)(B) is amended to read:

(B) in the salt waters;

(i) bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit;

(ii) sport fishing charter operators and crewmembers may not retain king salmon as part of the operator or crewmember bag or possession limit while a client is onboard the vessel;

5 AAC 55.022(a)(9)(A) is amended to read:

(A) may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of three [FOUR] fish; possession limit of six [EIGHT] fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit; yelloweye rockfish may only be retained from July 1 - December 31;

5 AAC 55.022(a)(9) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(C) sport fishing charter operators and crewmembers may not retain a rockfish of any species as part of the operator or crewmember bag or possession limit

while a client is onboard the vessel;

5 AAC 55.022(b)(3)(D) is repealed :

(D) repealed 6 / 7 / 2025 ;

5 AAC 55.022(b)(3)(E) is repealed:

(E) repealed 6 / 7 / 2025 ;

(Eff. 5/4/94, Register 130; am 9/5/97, Register 143; am 3/16/2000, Register 153; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; am 9/30/2000, Register 155; am 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 3/13/2004, Register 169; am 12/1/2004, Register 172; am 3/30/2006, Register 177; am 7/1/2006, Register 178; am 4/24/2009, Register 190; am 8/23/2009, Register 191; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 6/1/2013, Register 206; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 7/22/2017, Register 223; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 8/10/2018, Register 227; am 6/28/2019, Register 230; am 3/27/2022, Register 241; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 55.023(10) is amended to read:

(10) in Main Bay, sport fishing is prohibited [FROM A VESSEL THAT IS]

(A) within 200 [60] feet of the Main Bay Hatchery barrier seine; and

(B) inside the Main Bay Hatchery barrier seine and shoreward to the head of the bay, except that when the barrier seine is not present, sport fishing is allowed within 300 feet of the fish ladder. (Eff. 5/11/2003, Register 166; am 12/1/2004, Register 172; am 9/1/2006, Register 179; am 4/24/2009, Register 190; am 3/24/2012,

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Register 201; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am

6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 55.050 is repealed:

5 AAC 55.050. Waters closed to sport fishing. Repealed. (In effect before 1984; am 4/28/84, Register 90; am 5/11/85, Register 94; am 4/9/89, Register 110; am 4/30/91, Register 118; am 5/4/94, Register 130; am 3/16/2000, Register 153; am 7/5/2000, Register 155; repealed 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

5 AAC 55 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 55.060. Yelloweye rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management for the Prince William Sound Area. The purpose of this delegation of authority is to stabilize the harvest of yelloweye rockfish in the waters of the Prince William Sound Area. Yelloweye rockfish will be managed for long-term sustainability of the stock. If the commissioner determines that the yelloweye rockfish sport fishing regulations must be modified to keep the sport fishery within a sustainable harvest level, the commissioner may, by emergency order, require one or more of the following management measures:

- (1) modify bag and possession limits for nonresident anglers;
- (2) implement an annual limit for nonresidents;
- (3) prohibit charter vessel operators and crewmembers from retaining rockfish while clients are on board the vessel;
- (4) implement an annual limit for resident anglers;

(5) implement a size restriction. (Eff. 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

Chapter 77. Personal Use Fishery.

5 AAC 77.591(b) is amended to read:

(b) Salmon may be taken from June 10 [7] through September 30. The commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, for the period June 10 [7] through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake. This abundance-based preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season. [THE COMMISSIONER MAY CLOSE, BY AN EMERGENCY ORDER EFFECTIVE JUNE 7, THE CHITINA SUBDISTRICT PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHING SEASON AND SHALL REOPEN THE SEASON, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 15 DEPENDING ON THE RUN STRENGTH AND TIMING OF THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN.] Adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close the season [,] by emergency order [, THE SEASON] and immediately reopen the season with [IT DURING WHICH] additional allowable fishing times that correspond to the actual sonar count [WILL BE ALLOWED]. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close the season [,] by emergency order [, THE SEASON] and immediately reopen the season with reduced allowable [IT DURING WHICH] fishing times that correspond to the actual sonar count [WILL BE REDUCED BY A CORRESPONDING AMOUNT OF TIME].

5 AAC 77.591(e) is amended to read:

(e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is **as follows:**

(1) 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household;

(2) if the commissioner projects that the upper bound of the Copper River drainage sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal will be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the annual limit for sockeye salmon for the head of household is increased; an emergency order issued in accordance with this paragraph may not increase the king salmon annual limit established under paragraph (1) of this subsection or increase the king salmon annual limit specified in 5 AAC 24.361(d).

(Eff. 6/12/2003, Register 166; am 3/24/2012, Register 201; am 3/29/2015, Register 213; am 3/29/2018, Register 225; am 9/19/2019, Register 231; am 6 / 7 / 2025, Register 254)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251