

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-09-26

Issued at: Sitka, Monday,
April 6, 2026.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 16,
2026.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,
November 30, 2026 unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies lingcod sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and establishes minimum and maximum size limits and annual limits for lingcod in the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020(7) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 16 to 11:59 p.m. Monday, November 30, 2026:

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

(7) lingcod:

- A. in the Yakutat vicinity waters between 137° and 144° W. long.; lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30, as follows:
 - i. bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - ii. nonresidents: bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of two lingcod; of which one must be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - iii. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;
- B. in the waters of Northern Southeast Alaska north of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continuing to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, west of the longitude of the Cape Decision Light to a point west of Gish Bay at 55° 54.53' N. lat., 134° 12.50' W. long. to the southernmost tip of Helm Point to the western most tip of Hazy Island to the Cape Ommaney Light and north of 56° N. lat., and bound to the west by 137° W. long. excluding the waters of CSEO;
 - i. lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30, bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - ii. nonresidents: lingcod may be taken from May 16 – June 14 and September 1 – November 30, bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 35 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;

- iii. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;
- C. in the waters of Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) between 56° N. lat. and 57° 30' N. lat. and east of 137° W. long.:
 - i. lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30, bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - ii. nonresidents: lingcod may be taken from May 16 – June 30 and September 1 – November 30, bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 35 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - iii. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;
- D. in waters of Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector (SSEOC) along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., and waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 137° W. long. and west of 132° W.:
 - i. lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30, bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - ii. nonresidents: lingcod may be taken from May 16 – July 31 and September 1 – November 30, bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 35 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - iii. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel;
- E. in waters of Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) which includes all the waters of the southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict not included in the Southern Southeast Outer coast Sector including waters east of Prince of Wales Island north of 56° N. lat., and waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 132° W. long. and the remaining inside waters of Southern Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continued to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, east of the longitude of the Cape Decision;
 - i. lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30, bag limit of one fish, possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
 - ii. nonresidents: lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30, bag and possession limit of one fish, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length; annual limit of two lingcod, of which only one may be 30 to 35 inches in length and one may be 55 inches or greater in length;
 - iii. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Troy Tydingco

Acting Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) modified sport fishing regulations for lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to widespread decline in abundance as indicated in the directed lingcod commercial fishery. The board established a guideline harvest level (GHL) approach for sport and commercial fisheries management of lingcod in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160(e)). The GHL was allocated between sport and commercial users by the board for seven fishery management areas (5 AAC 28.165). The board also expanded the department's authority to modify regulations to achieve the lingcod allocation for the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.060).

Since 2000 the department has implemented regulations annually by emergency order, including minimum length and slot limits, reduced bag and possession limits, annual limits, nonretention of fish by charter operators and crew members, and reduced seasons. The 2026 season in Northern Southeast Outside, Northern Southeast Inside Central Southeast Outside, and Southern Southeast Outer Coast waters has been reduced for nonresidents. These actions are being taken to keep the sport fishery within its allocation and under the authority granted to the department within the *Lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management* (5 AAC 47.060).

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811, (907) 465-4270.