

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-MHS-R-11-26

Issued at: Sitka, Monday, April 13, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27, 2026

Expiration Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the filleting, mutilating (excluding gutting and gilling) and de-heading of lingcod, demersal shelf rockfish (DSR), slope rockfish, and king and coho salmon at sea by marine boat anglers during designated times and areas within Southeast Alaska. This prohibition is in addition to statewide regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries in 2026 regarding retention and possession of lingcod, all species of rockfish, and king salmon for the determination of species and length.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.030(m) are added by this emergency order and become effective at 12:01 a.m. April 27, 2026. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

(m) In Southeast Alaska, marine boat anglers possessing sport caught lingcod, demersal shelf rockfish, slope rockfish, king and coho salmon, and returning to any port on the road system of the communities listed below, during the times designated, may not fillet, mutilate (excluding gutting and gilling), or de-head these fish until their vessel is tied up at a docking facility where the fish will be offloaded, unless the fish have been consumed or preserved on board:

Juneau:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2026.
Sitka:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2026.
Yakutat:	12:01 a.m. Monday, April 27	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.
Elfin Cove:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.
Gustavus:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.
Craig:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.
Klawock:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.
Ketchikan:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 25	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2026.
Petersburg:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.
Wrangell:	12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11	through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2026.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Troy Tydingco
Acting Regional Management Coordinator

Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The department conducts on-site creel sampling programs in Southeast Alaska to estimate sport fishing effort, harvest, contributions of hatchery and certain wild stocks of king and coho salmon, length and sex composition of lingcod, and lengths of DSR and slope rockfish. If anglers fillet, de-head, or process fish before returning to port, ADF&G staff will not be able to collect this information critical to management of the fisheries. Without the ability to sample these species while intact, the department would have a reduced ability to calculate the contribution of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon, comply with provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty related to the recovery of coded wire tags, estimate the sport removals of lingcod and rockfish which is needed to comply with management plans, and collect biological data useful to monitor the sustainability of the fisheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulations (5 AAC 75.003(3)) giving the department authority to restrict these activities by emergency order during times and in locations necessary for scientific data collection. These actions are important to fisheries management. This regulation will be in effect for the duration of the creel sampling programs. Anglers returning to these ports may consume king or coho salmon, lingcod, and rockfish on board, as well as preserve these fish, if they choose, before offloading.

DISTRIBUTION:

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