

**DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS**

- Anglers must surrender the heads of any tagged salmon or trout (with external or internal tags) or an adipose finclip, along with the catch date and location, upon request by an ADF&G representative or state peace officer.

**LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS**

- Unless specified by regulation or law, anyone who violates these regulations is strictly liable for the offense, regardless of that person's intent.

**PROHIBITED ACTS****BAIT PROHIBITED IN FRESH WATER FROM NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14:**

- Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used.
- The use of bait is only allowed in freshwater from September 15 through November 15, unless otherwise noted in the special regulations listed on pages 15-33.

**BOWFISHING:**

- Bowfishing is prohibited in the fresh and salt waters of Southeast Alaska.

**CLOSED WATERS/ WATERS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING:**

- Unless area regulations state otherwise:
  - It is unlawful to cast, drift, or place any hook, bait, lure, or fly into waters closed to sport fishing.

**FELT-SOLED BOOTS PROHIBITED:**

- The use of footwear with absorbent felt or other fibrous material on the soles is prohibited while sport or personal use fishing in fresh water.

**GAFFS PROHIBITED:**

- A gaff may not be used to puncture any fish intended or required to be released.

**MOLESTING OF FISH:**

- Molesting or impeding spawning or the natural movement of fish contrary to lawful methods and means of sport fishing is prohibited.

**POSSESSION, TRANSPORT, OR MARKING OF LIVE FISH, EGGS, OR AQUATIC ORGANISMS:**

- It is unlawful, except in accordance with the provisions listed on page 7 under "Use of Sport-Caught Fish as Bait," or in compliance with the terms of a permit issued by the Commissioner, it is unlawful for a person to collect, transport, possess, propagate, export, mark in any way, or release into the waters or the lands of the state, any live fish, fish eggs, or aquatic organism.
- It is unlawful for a person to possess any part of a Class A banned invasive species, including reproductive or genetic material, at any stage of its life cycle, except as follows: (1) when transporting a specimen to any ADF&G office or another location as directed by ADF&G staff in a sealed container for the purpose of containing, identifying, or reporting the presence of the species; or (2) under the provisions of an aquatic resource permit. A person may not possess any live Class B banned invasive species at any stage of its life cycle. See page 46 for Class A & B definitions.

**SALE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH PROHIBITED:**

- It is unlawful for anyone to buy, sell, or barter sport-caught fish or their parts.

**SNAGGING IN FRESH WATER PROHIBITED:**

- It is unlawful to intentionally snag or attempt to snag fish in fresh water.
- "Snag" means hooking a fish elsewhere than in its mouth. Any fish unintentionally hooked elsewhere than its mouth must be released immediately.

**USE OF EXPLOSIVES OR TOXICANTS:**

- The use of any toxicants or explosives to catch any fish in the waters of Alaska is prohibited. However, a shaft tipped with an explosive charge (commonly known as a bangstick or powerhead) or a firearm may be used on board a vessel in salt water to dispatch a fish caught with legal gear.

**WASTE OF FISH:**

- The intentional waste or destruction of any sport-caught fish species is prohibited.

**METHODS AND MEANS****FISH LADDERS:**

- Fishing is allowed within 300 feet of fish ladders unless otherwise posted by ADF&G markers. No person may fish from, on, or in a fish ladder.

**FRESH WATER SPORT FISHING:**

- Fish may not be taken in freshwater using:
  - Fixed or weighted hooks and lures (except standard manufactured ones);
  - Multiple hooks with a gap larger than ½ inch between the point and shank;
  - A spear or arrow, unless allowed under area regulations.
  - **Spearguns are not legal gear in freshwaters.**
- The use of bait is only allowed from September 15 through November 15. This regulation applies to all fresh waters, unless otherwise noted in special regulations on pages 15-33.
- Fresh waters closed to salmon fishing but open to trout, Arctic grayling, Arctic char, or kokanee fishing are also open to the taking of salmon less than 16 inches long.
- Ice fishing is allowed with two closely attended lines, provided only one hook or artificial lure is used on each line.

**POWER-ASSISTED FISHING REEL:**

- A power-assisted fishing reel may only be used to sport fish if:
  - The reel is mounted on a fishing rod by means of a reel seat and;
  - The reel assembly, motor, gearbox, fishing line, reel-mounted battery, or other reel-mounted attachments weigh no more than 15 pounds in total when detached from the fishing rod.

**SNAGGING IN SALT WATER:**

- Snagging is allowed in saltwater, unless prohibited under area regulations.

**SPORT FISHING GEAR:**

- Unless area regulations state otherwise, sport fishing may only be done using:
  - A closely attended single line attached to no more than one plug; one spoon; one spinner or series of spinners; two artificial flies; or two hooks.
  - The line must be closely attended.
  - No more than six lines may be fished from any vessel.
  - The maximum number of fishing lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in charter activities is equal to the number of paying clients on board the vessel but cannot exceed six lines.

**SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR HERRING AND SMELT:**

- In saltwater, herring and smelt may be taken using up to 15 or less unbaited, single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

**SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR SQUID:**

- Squid may be taken using no more than two squid jigs attached to a single line. See page 47 for definition of a squid jig. Standard sport fishing gear can also be used to target squid, see page 7.

**USE OF ATTRACTOR (BEAD):**

- An attractor, including a bead, when used with an artificial fly, artificial lure, or bare hook, must be:
  - Either fixed within 2 inches of the bare hook, fly, or lure,
  - Or be free sliding on the line or leader.
- A bead fished on the line above a bare single hook is legal gear in waters where only flies are allowed.

**USE OF UNDERWATER SPEAR (SALT WATER):**

- In saltwater, a person may use a spear or speargun (not tipped with an explosive charge) to take fish while completely submerged or swimming on the surface, subject to applicable seasons, bag limits, and possession limits.



Trolling for Chinook salmon.

**USE OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH AS BAIT**

- Fish caught under sport fishing regulations may not be used as bait, except;
  - Herring, chum salmon, pink salmon, and whitefish may be used as bait.
  - Species with no bag or annual limits may be used as bait.
  - The head, tail, fins, closely trimmed skeleton, and viscera of legally caught sport fish may be used as bait.
- Live herring and other species with no bag or annual limits may be used as live bait in saltwater, except that live fish may not be used as bait in freshwater.
- Live bait may only be possessed, transported, or released in the regulatory saltwaters area where it was caught.

**POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT FISH**

- Sport-caught fish, their parts, and articles manufactured from such fish may be possessed within the state by any person, at any time, and may be transported within and exported out of the state by any person at any time, except that no person may possess any unpreserved fish, or part of one, not legally taken by the angler, unless the angler furnishes, upon request of any ADF&G staff or peace officer of the state, a statement signed by the person taking the fish stating the type of fish, number of fish, location, date taken, and license number. See Transfer of Possession Form on page 44.
- The statement is unnecessary if the person possessing the fish is accompanied by the person who caught the fish. No one may possess fish which were not legally caught.
- A person may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which that person is fishing. This means that you may not fish in any waters if you are in possession of fish that exceeds the possession limit for those waters.
- Upon request by an employee of ADF&G, or a peace officer of the state, a person must present for inspection any fish taken or possessed by the person in a sport fishery.
- Upon request by an employee of ADF&G or a peace officer of the state, a person while taking fish must present, for inspection, any apparatus designed to be or capable of being used to take fish in a sport fishery.



Tiger rockfish.

## POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT HALIBUT

- Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty.
- Federal possession and landing requirements for sport-caught halibut differ from state regulations. Possession includes unpreserved AND preserved fish for halibut, but possession limits only apply in saltwaters.
- **Transfer of Possession forms are not valid for halibut.**
- Consult federal regulations for halibut bag, size, and possession limits for guided (charter) anglers; and possession and landing requirements.
- Federal halibut regulations are available through NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region at (907) 586-7228. [www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut](http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut)



A successful halibut day for these anglers!



Two seasoned anglers with a big halibut catch!

## SPORT FISH GUIDING

- **In Southeast Alaska, all saltwater sport fishing businesses must use an eLogbook.**
- All sport fishing guides and businesses must register and get a guide and/or business license with ADF&G before guiding clients.
- All sport charter vessels used for guiding to take fish or shellfish in fresh or salt water must have a current DMV boat registration number or USCG documentation number, along with an ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel decal with the current year renewal sticker.
- Decals must be displayed in plain sight on both sides of the vessel during sport fishing guide services.
- For more information on sport fishing guide and business requirements, visit [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.main).



A little angler's catch: Horse Island sculpin!

## SPORT FISHING FROM COMMERCIALY LICENSED VESSELS

- A person sport fishing from a vessel licensed for commercial salmon fishing shall immediately mark harvested salmon by removing its dorsal (large back) fin. This marking requirements doesn't apply to commercial vessels that are also registered as charter vessels when paying clients are on board.
- Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing.
- A person may not sport fish and commercial fish for salmon from the same vessel on the same day.
- A person may not possess unpreserved sport caught salmon on any commercial salmon vessel while engaged in commercial salmon fishing.
- Additional restrictions and provisions apply to persons and vessels who participate in commercial shellfish fisheries. For specific information, see commercial shellfish regulations.