

**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 ADF&G staff 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**

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

- Unless area regulations state otherwise:
  - (a) waters within 300 feet of a fish weir or fish ladder are closed to sport fishing, unless marked differently by ADF&G markers, and (b) 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 footgear with absorbent felt or similar fibrous materials 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 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, 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 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, barter, or trade 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.

*Snagging in Fresh Water Prohibited continued...*

- “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**

**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 bow and arrow, unless allowed under area regulations.
- **Spearguns are not legal gear in freshwaters.**

**ICE FISHING GEAR:**

- Ice fishing is allowed with two closely attended lines, provided only one hook or artificial lure is used on each line. Additional gear may be used for northern pike and burbot as specified in statewide or area regulations.
- The total number of lines/hooks an angler may use is limited to the maximum allowed for any species. For example, in a lake where regulations allow 5 set lines for burbot and 2 lines under the ice for northern pike, the maximum number of lines you may fish is 5 (not 5 + 2 = 7); and when fishing your 5 lines, only 2 of them may be used to target northern pike.

**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, held in hand or attached to a fishing pole or rod, 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, unless area regulations allow unattended setlines for burbot.

**SPORT FISHING GEAR FOR BURBOT:**

- Unless area regulations state otherwise, burbot may be taken using more than one line and hook in freshwaters provided:
  - The total number of hooks does not exceed 15 or the daily burbot bag limit for the waters being fished, whichever is less (5 burbot bag limit = 5 hooks fished).
  - Hooks are single hooks with a gap larger than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch between the point and shank.
  - Each hook is set to rest on the bottom of the lake or stream.
  - Each line is labeled with the angler's name and address.
  - In waters where setlines are allowed, the lines must be physically inspected at least once every 24 hours. In waters where setlines are prohibited, the lines must be closely attended by the angler at all times.

**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 NORTHERN PIKE:**

- Northern pike may be taken by spear, unless prohibited under area regulations.
- Northern pike caught on set lines must be released and cannot be retained.

**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 6.

**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 (SALTWATER):**

- 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.

**EVIDENCE OF SPECIES AND SIZE****NEW Statewide retention requirements for rockfish, lingcod, and king salmon in all waters:**

- You may fillet your catch, but all skin must remain attached to the fillets.
- For lingcod and king salmon, the carcass must be kept in one piece so the length can be measured.
  - The above applies until the vessel is tied up at a docking location where the fish will be offloaded from a vessel or an angler fishing from shore is done fishing for the day or is departing the fishing site for the day.
- This does not prohibit eating or preserving fish as allowed under regulation. See "Preserved Fish" on page 47.

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

- Fish caught under sport fishing regulations may not be used as bait, except;
  - Herring and whitefish may be used as bait.
  - Species with no bag or annual limits may be used as bait.
  - The head, tail, fins, and viscera of legally caught sport fish may be used as bait.
- Live fish may not be used as bait in freshwater.
- Live herring and other species with no bag or annual limits may be used as live bait in saltwater.
- 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.

**POSSESSION OF SPORT-CAUGHT HALIBUT**

- Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty.
- **Transfer of Possession form is not valid for halibut.**
- 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)

**SPORT FISH GUIDING**

- **An eLogbook is required for all saltwater sport fishing businesses in Alaska.**
- 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).