

**PROPOSAL 149**

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

Reduce saltwater coho salmon bag and possession limit in Puget Cove to two fish, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(b)(5) is added:

(b) in the Yakutat vicinity;

**(5) in all waters of Puget Cove, shoreward of the boundary defined by a line between 59°33'52.79"N lat. 139° 43'51.65"W long., and 59°33'49.92"N lat. 139°42'56.06"W long., the bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is two fish.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

Coho salmon staging in the nearshore salt waters of the Puget Cove lagoon area experience high levels of sport fishing pressure. This area is easily accessible from the Yakutat road system via several trails and is also adjacent to a sport fishing lodge and the Yakutat small boat harbor. Anglers targeting coho salmon in Puget Cove fish from the shoreline and from small boats.

Current coho salmon sport fishing regulations for this area are the general Southeast saltwater bag and possession limits of six fish per day, twelve in possession. A reduction of the bag and possession limit to two coho salmon would align sport fishing regulations in this lagoon area with other similar lagoons in the Yakutat area (Village Lagoon and Ankau Lagoon) that are easily accessible and receive higher levels of sport fishing pressure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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