

PROPOSAL 126

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

Require all anglers to release nonpelagic rockfish at depth with a deepwater release mechanism, as follows:

The regulation to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth as written for guided anglers should be extended to apply to all sport fishers, including the requirement to have on board at least one operable at-depth release mechanism.

All sport caught non-pelagic rockfish that are intended to be released must be released at the depth they were caught or at least 100', whichever is shallower.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently only guided fishers are required to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth. Statistically it is estimated that there is as much as an 80% survival rate for non-pelagic rockfish that are released at depth. While it is not practical for the commercial fishery to release at depth, there is no reason why all other sport harvesters should not also be required to release non-pelagics at depth in order to conserve the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie

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