
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Mike Vaughn

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6239

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
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Time: 2:15 p.m.

2015 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the directed lingcod fishery will open in outside waters of the Southeast District, east of 144° W. long., at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 16, 2015. Lingcod management areas will remain open to directed lingcod fishing until harvest allocations are taken or 11:59 p.m., November 30, 2015, whichever occurs first.

Directed Lingcod Fishery Allocations (round pounds):

Management Area	Allocation
Icy Bay Sector (IBS)	46,000
East Yakutat (EYKT)	111,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC)	50,100

Closed Waters

The waters of CSEO between the latitudes 56°55.50' N. and 56°57.00' N. and longitudes 135°54.00' W. and 135°57.00' W. (the Edgumbe Pinnacle Marine Reserve) and waters of Sitka Sound are closed to directed lingcod fishing. Closed waters of Sitka Sound are defined in 5 AAC 28.150(a) as waters that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50' N. lat., 135°45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05' N. lat., 135°43.00' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58' N. lat., 135°41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57°22.28' N. lat., 135°40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38' N. lat., 135°49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56°51.92' N. lat., 135°30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.75' W. long. to Baranof Island at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.60' W. long.

Vessels fishing in outside waters should note that there are four federal Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Coral Habitat Protection Areas on the Fairweather Grounds in the EYKT Section and one near Cape Ommaney in the CSEO Section that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear, including dinglebar and longline. Locations of the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679 at: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tab126.pdf>. For additional information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

Directed fishing for lingcod is prohibited in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI) Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Lingcod Fishery: The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be retained and sold and is based on the round weight of lingcod on board.

Species	Bycatch Allowance
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10% EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC; IBS state waters (0-3 nm).
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate.
Other Rockfish and Thornyheads	5% in aggregate (includes DSR in IBS federal waters 3-200 nm).
Pacific cod	20%.
Spiny dogfish	20%.
Sablefish	0%.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.

Miscellaneous Regulations

Lingcod may be taken in a directed lingcod fishery only by mechanical jigging machines, dinglebar troll gear, and hand troll gear. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) "I" interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. Vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter "D" and vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter "M" (5 AAC 28.135). A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying more than one of these letters at any time. A vessel may not display either letter while the vessel is being used to fish for salmon.

In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line that is set and retrieved with a troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with one or more lures or baited hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is making way [5 AAC 28.130 (h)]. Only one troll gurdy line may be deployed in the water at any time. All lingcod retained must measure at least 27" in length from the tip of snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5" from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of tail.

The vessel owner or the owner's agent must register the vessel with ADF&G prior to participating in a directed lingcod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. The Icy Bay Subdistrict is a super exclusive registration area for the directed commercial lingcod fishery. A CFEC permit holder who participates in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the IBS may not participate or have participated in the directed commercial taking of lingcod as a CFEC permit holder in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year. A vessel used in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the IBS may not be used or have been used in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year.

Full retention of DSR is required for CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish in all state waters (0-3 nm) and in federal waters (3-200 nm) of the Southeast Outside Subdistrict that are east of 140° W. long. Full retention of DSR is not required in federal waters west of 140° W. long. (IBS). The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, tiger, copper, china, and rosethorn rockfish. Full retention of black rockfish is also required in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area for permit holders fishing for groundfish. Full retention regulations require permit holders to retain, weigh, and report on an ADF&G fish ticket all DSR and black rockfish taken. In waters where full retention regulations are in effect, all DSR and black rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported on a fish ticket as bycatch overage. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR taken in state waters and excess black rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish from state waters, retained due to full retention requirements, may be kept for a person's own use. DSR overage taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce.

A vessel must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) if the vessel is used to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska and is required to retain groundfish caught in the EEZ. Full retention of DSR in the EEZ is required by regulation in waters east of 140° W. long. If a vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess an FFP: http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/cm/info_bulletins/bulletin.aspx?bulletin_id=3571. For information on FFPs contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202, 800-304-4846, or download an application at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/FFPAPP.pdf>. FFPs are not required for vessels fishing in state managed fisheries in state waters.

ADF&G logbooks are required for the directed lingcod fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the associated fish ticket at the time of the landing. Logbook requirements (5 AAC 28.175) for the lingcod fishery include date, location of harvest by statistical area and nearest headland, number of hooks fished, average depth, hours fished, number of lingcod retained and discarded, lingcod sex ratio, and the number of fish taken as bycatch, by species. In an effort to better document the spatial distribution of lingcod fishing effort and harvest, the department also requests fishermen to report in their logbooks the latitude and longitude for each unique area fished. Logbooks and confidential envelopes used for submitting those logbooks may be obtained at ADF&G offices.

Fishermen should record the date, tag number, depth, and latitude and longitude of any lingcod tag recoveries. This information should be noted in the “comments” section of the corresponding logbook effort. Contact the department when offloading the fish in port. Knives will be rewarded for lingcod tag returns and individuals that provide the required recovery information will qualify for an annual drawing for a \$250 prize.

Catch and effort will be closely monitored and fishermen should expect area closures on short notice. Lingcod closures will be announced by news release and on the United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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<i>ADF&G</i>	<i>225-5195</i>	<i>772-3801</i>	<i>874-3822</i>	<i>747-6688</i>	<i>465-4250</i>	<i>766-2830</i>	<i>784-3255</i>
<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>	<i>766-2533</i>	<i>784-3220</i>

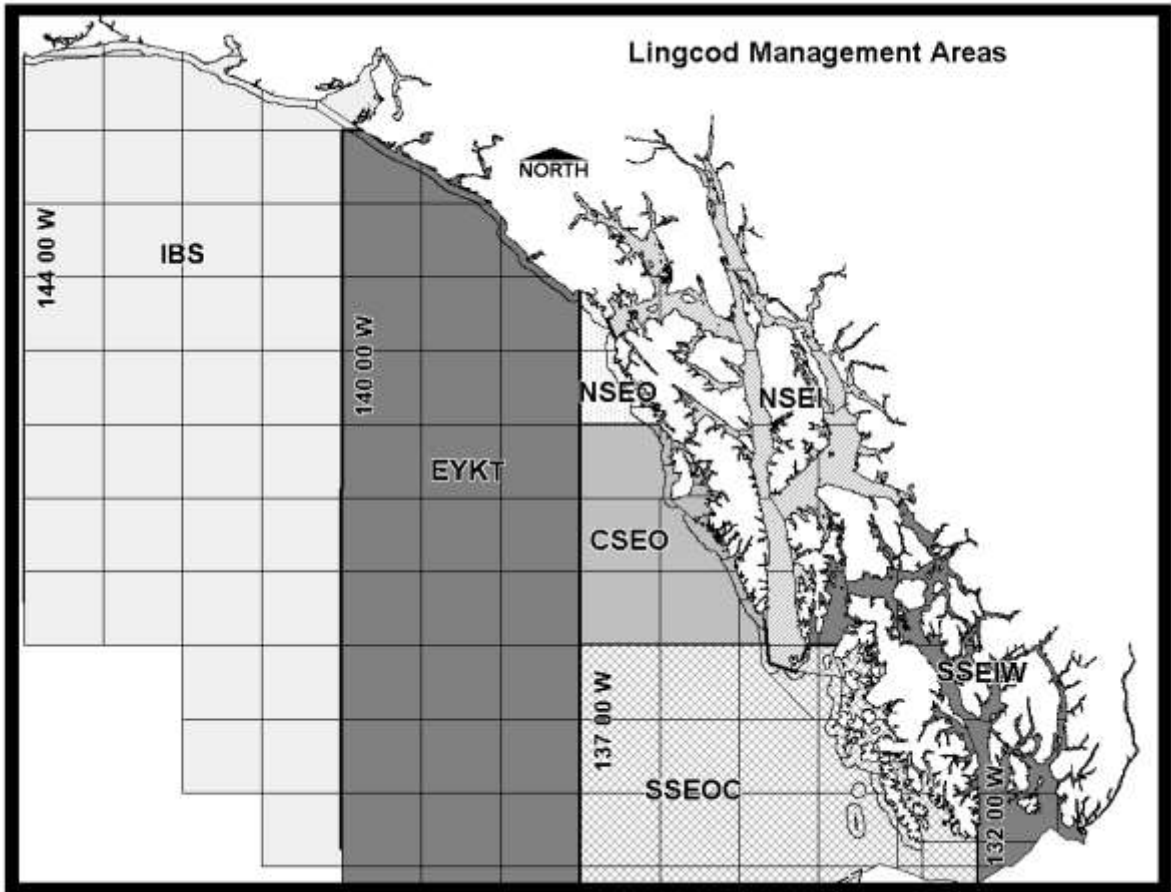


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Areas.

This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105