



March 2024

To: Southeast Alaska Processors and Fish Buyers,

This letter describes protocols for the assignment and documentation of fish ticket overages and the distribution of overage proceeds to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Overage proceeds are distributed based on agency jurisdiction over commercial fishery, species, and area fished. Proceeds from overages will be distributed as follows.

**Bycatch overages (disposition code 62) – see Figures 1 and 2:**

If the bycatch overages occurred in **state waters of Alaska** including Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts and the **0-3 nm section of** Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO), East Yakutat (EYKT), and Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) Sections in the Southeast District, **proceeds from bycatch overages in all fisheries shall be surrendered to ADF&G.**

In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (EGOA), a vessel or Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish caught, including thornyhead rockfish. All rockfish retained in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish retained due to full retention requirements may be retained for personal use; however, the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

In **federal waters** (waters beyond 0-3 nm in NSEO, CSEO, SSEO, EYKT, IBS), **proceeds from lingcod overages shall be surrendered to ADF&G.** Permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut in federal waters must retain and report on fish tickets all rockfish taken, including thornyheads. Rockfish bycatch taken in excess of allowable limits may be retained by the permit holder for personal consumption or donated but may not be sold or enter commerce. **All other groundfish species are assigned as federal overage and paid to the fishermen at the time of landing.**

If the **Target Species** landed is in excess of seasonal or trip limits (**disposition code 62**) and was taken in: **State-managed Chatham (NSEI) and Clarence (SSEI) sablefish fisheries**, the sablefish overage value is calculated based on the personal quota share (PQS) and round pounds landed for the permit holder. Legal sablefish overages within 5% of the equal quota share (EQS) are paid to the fishermen and assigned comment code 81. Illegal overages that exceed the EQS by more than 5%, are assigned comment code 20 and the proceeds from their sale must be forfeited to ADF&G.

**Federal halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries**, NMFS will calculate the halibut or sablefish overage value based on the price and weight information provided by the registered buyer. These overages are forfeited to NMFS. The enforcement representative that is handling the overage will advise the registered buyer on distribution of the proceeds.

**The procedure for processing overages is as follows:**

Legal and overage catch are itemized separately for each permit holder on an eLandings landing report or on a conventional fish ticket. Allowable bycatch percentages vary between state and federal waters and in some cases by management area (Tables 1 and 2; Figure 1). Overages must be calculated and listed on the fish ticket at the time of landing. Overages must be calculated proportional to the reported harvest areas. Assign overages by statistical area if both state and federal areas are reported on the same landing report.

For bycatch overages of full-retention rockfish taken in state waters with an aggregated species allowance, a permit holder is allowed to sell the higher-valued species and forfeit to ADF&G proceeds from the sale of the lesser-valued species. When calculating overages, fish retained for personal use shall be applied toward the allowable bycatch amount prior to determining the amount of that species that will be sold. Any additional harvest above the allowance is reported as overage. In state waters, a permit holder may choose to retain bycatch overages (full-retention species only) for personal consumption rather than forfeit proceeds from the sale of these fish. **In the absence of full-retention requirements for a state-managed species, the overage must be forfeited, and proceeds paid to ADF&G.**

For each species with an overage, assign disposition code 62 (overage) with the appropriate forfeited catch comment code based on: type of overage (bycatch or trip/season limit), management (state or federal), and whether the overage was sold or retained (Table 3). Include the amount paid to ADF&G or assigned to NMFS. State overages are payable to the "State of Alaska." Attach the overage check to the fish ticket and submit to your local ADF&G office.

Procedures for processing federal bycatch overages, for species other than rockfish and lingcod, differ in that federal bycatch overage proceeds are paid to the fisherman at the time of landing. The fish buyer shall send the scale sheet and fish ticket for each federal overage to their local NMFS Enforcement office. When a federal IFQ sablefish or halibut overage occurs, the NMFS Enforcement representative that is handling the overage will advise the registered buyer and the IFQ fisherman of the overage amount and the appropriate distribution of the proceeds. For the most updated federal overage procedures, please contact NOAA enforcement at: 907-747-6940 (Sitka); 907-586-7225 (Juneau); 907-772-2285 (Petersburg); or 907-247-5804 (Ketchikan).

If the landing appears to be in violation of regulations, please notify Alaska Wildlife Troopers or NMFS Enforcement. If you have any questions regarding fish ticket reporting or overage documentation, contact your local ADF&G representative that processes your fish tickets. Please refer to Tables 4 and 5 for your representative's contact information, listed by port and fishery.

Sincerely,

Southeast Alaska Groundfish Project

**Table 1.–Allowable bycatch limits in the IFQ halibut fishery.**

BYCATCH SPECIES	FEDERAL WATERS	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 NM	STATE INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI
Rockfish, including thornyheads	EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, and SSEO: 15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR  IBS: 15% in aggregate, of which up to 5% may be yelloweye  <b>Full retention required for all rockfish species, including thornyheads<sup>1</sup></b>	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR  <b>Full retention required for all rockfish species, including thornyheads<sup>2</sup></b>	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR  <b>Full retention required for all rockfish species, including thornyheads<sup>2</sup></b>
Lingcod	20% in EYKT, NSEO, CSEO and SSEOC 5% in IBS		20% in NSEI 5% in SSEIW
	Bycatch allowed for <b>longline gear only</b> ; lingcod bycatch permitted until area GHl taken. Minimum size limit: 27" (tip of snout to tip of tail) or 20.5" (front of dorsal fin to tip of tail)  <i>No lingcod bycatch allowed in the sablefish fishery or caught by pot gear</i>		
Pacific cod <sup>3</sup>	20%		
Spiny Dogfish	See Other Groundfish	35% for longline gear; 20% for jig gear	
Skates	5% in aggregate		
Sablefish	0%, no retention		
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate, including spiny dogfish	20% in aggregate	

<sup>1</sup> Overages of rockfish species from federal waters cannot enter commerce.

<sup>2</sup> Overages of rockfish species from state waters can be retained for personal use or sold, in which case the profits must be surrendered to the State.

<sup>3</sup> In state waters, Pacific cod is under full retention in statistical areas where the directed fishery is open. Overages from areas open to directed fishery may be landed on a CFEC miscellaneous saltwater finfish permit (M card), designated for the gear that was used.

**Table 2.—Allowable bycatch limits in the IFQ and state-managed sablefish fisheries.**

BYCATCH SPECIES	FEDERAL WATERS	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 NM	STATE INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI (Chatham/Clarence)
Rockfish, including thornyheads	EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, and SSEO: 15% in aggregate, of which up to 1% may be DSR  IBS: 15% in aggregate, of which up to 5% may be yelloweye  <b>Full retention required for all rockfish species, including thornyheads<sup>1</sup></b>	No sablefish retention allowed for directed fishery or as bycatch, except tagged fish under regulation 5 AAC 28.170(c)	15% in aggregate, of which up to 1% may be DSR  <b>Full retention required for all rockfish species, including thornyheads<sup>2</sup></b>
Lingcod	0%, no retention		0%, no retention
Pacific cod <sup>3</sup>	20%		20%
Spiny Dogfish	See Other Groundfish		35% longline gear 20% pot gear
Skates	5% in aggregate		See Other Groundfish
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate, including spiny dogfish		20% in aggregate, including skates

<sup>1</sup> Overages of rockfish species from federal waters cannot enter commerce.

<sup>2</sup> Overages of rockfish species from state internal waters can be retained for personal use or sold, in which case the profits must be surrendered to the State.

<sup>3</sup> In state waters, Pacific cod is under full retention in statistical areas where the directed fishery is open. Overages from areas open to directed fishery may be landed on a CFEC miscellaneous saltwater finfish permit (M card), designated for the gear that was used.

**Table 3.–Comment codes for bycatch overages and payment procedures.** Use disposition code 62 for all bycatch overages and refer to the table below to assign the appropriate comment code to overages, by species and waters, and to determine if the overage can or cannot enter commerce, if it must be sold, and to whom it is paid.

<b>eLandings Comment Codes and Payment Protocol for State Groundfish Overages</b>			
<b>OVERAGE BYCATCH SPECIES</b>	<b>Federal Waters IBS, EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEO</b>	<b>State Outside Waters 0-3 miles</b>	<b>State Internal Waters NSEI and SSEI</b>
	<b>Use the following Comment Codes for Bycatch Overages with Disposition 62</b>		
<b>All rockfish</b>	39 (ONLY!)	sold = 19 / PU = 28	sold = 19 / PU = 28
<b>Lingcod</b>	19	19	19
<b>Pacific cod</b>	29	19 <sup>1</sup>	19 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sablefish</b>	<i>illegal</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>illegal</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>illegal</i> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Other groundfish</b>	29	19	19
<b>PAYMENT PROTOCOL</b>			
<b>All rockfish</b>	Not to Enter Commerce	State of AK	State of AK
<b>Lingcod</b>	State of AK	State of AK	State of AK
<b>Pacific cod</b>	To Fisherman	State of AK	State of AK
<b>Other groundfish</b>	To Fisherman	State of AK	State of AK
<b>Retention requirements</b>	<b>All rockfish, including thornyheads</b>	<b>All rockfish, including thornyheads</b>	<b>All rockfish, including thornyheads</b>

<sup>1</sup> Pacific cod is under the full retention rule in statistical areas where the directed fishery is open; overages from these areas can be sold under an M permit card (disposition 60)

<sup>2</sup> A sablefish bearing a fisheries agency tag may be retained and sold at any time, if the fish is landed with the tag intact and the recovery is reported to the department at the time of landing (disposition code 64)

**Comment code definitions:**

- 19** - Forfeited catch - bycatch overage - state managed groundfish
- 28** - Forfeited catch - bycatch overage - state managed groundfish - retained for personal use
- 29** - Forfeited catch - bycatch overage - federally managed groundfish
- 39** - Forfeited catch - bycatch overage - federally managed groundfish - retained for personal use/does not enter commerce

**Table 4.–Fishery, port, ADF&G office, and point of contact for Groundfish fish tickets.** Please submit your groundfish fish tickets to your local ADF&G office or mail them directly to the office in this list based on the appropriate port and fishery for the fish tickets.

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Port of Landing</b>	<b>ADF&amp;G Office</b>	<b>Contact for questions</b>
IFQ halibut and sablefish	Elfin Cove	Juneau	elandings@alaska.gov
	Gustavus		
	Haines		
	Hoonah		
	Juneau		
	Pelican		
	Yakutat		
	Craig		
	Hyder		
	Ketchikan		
	Petersburg		
	Wrangell		
Sitka			
State Managed Sablefish – Chatham fishery –	Elfin Cove	Juneau	Aaron Baldwin
	Haines		
	Hoonah		
	Juneau		
	Pelican		
	Petersburg		
	Ketchikan	Ketchikan	Laura Coleman
	Sitka	Sitka	Alex McCarrel
State Managed Sablefish – Clarence fishery –	All ports	Ketchikan	Laura Coleman
Lingcod	All ports	Sitka	Alex McCarrel
Black rockfish			
Pacific cod	All ports	Juneau	Aaron Baldwin
Hagfish			

**Table 5.–ADF&G Contact list and information.**

<b>ADF&amp;G Staff</b>	<b>ADF&amp;G Contact Information</b>
<p>Aaron Baldwin Fishery Biologist II</p>	<p>Address: Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game PO Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811</p> <p>Phone: (907) 465-3896</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:aaron.baldwin@alaska.gov">aaron.baldwin@alaska.gov</a></p>
<p>Alex McCarrel Fishery Biologist II</p>	<p>Address: Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game 304 Lake St Ste 103 Sitka, AK 99835</p> <p>Phone: (907) 747-6688</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:alex.mccarrel@alaska.gov">alex.mccarrel@alaska.gov</a></p>
<p>Laura Coleman Fishery Biologist II</p>	<p>Address: Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game 2030 Sea Level Drive #205 Ketchikan, AK 99901</p> <p>Phone: (907) 225-5195</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:laura.coleman@alaska.gov">laura.coleman@alaska.gov</a></p>

Figure 1.—Map of rockfish retention requirements and allowances for groundfish and halibut fisheries.

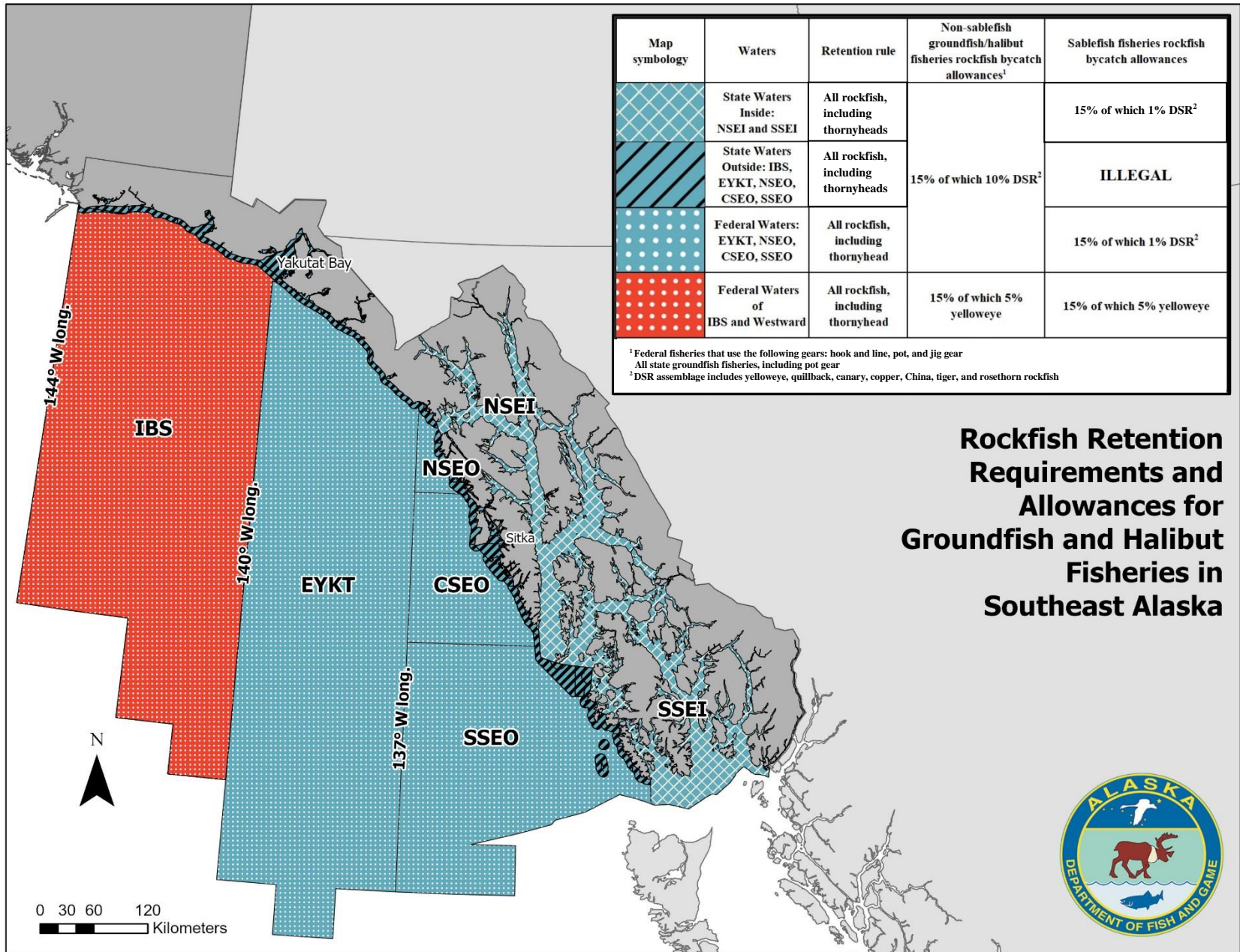




Figure 2.–Flowchart for rockfish retention rules and overage payment.

