

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REGULATORY GUIDE FOR THE SOUTHEAST

ALASKA/YAKUTAT WINTER TROLL FISHERY

(October 11, 2001 through April 14, 2002)



by  
Southeast Region Troll Management Staff

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report was compiled and written by the Southeast Alaska troll management staff, which includes: Brian Lynch (regional troll management biologist), Pattie Skannes (assistant troll management biologist), and Jason Shull (assistant troll management biologist). Cleo Brylinsky (groundfish biologist) assisted with the groundfish regulation section of this report. Scott Kelley (regional management biologist) edited the final document and Cori Cashen (publications specialist) produced the final report.

## **FOREWORD**

This plan summarizes the management approach the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will employ to manage the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat commercial salmon winter troll fishery during the 2002 season, provides catch data from the previous winter troll season, and provides some of the regulatory information formerly found in the winter troll regulatory guide.

Beginning in 1998 the department reformatted the troll commercial fishing regulations based on the troll regulatory guide model. As a result, most of the former regulatory guide information is now found in the 2000-2003 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Fishing Regulations (formally called Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Area Commercial Salmon and Miscellaneous Finfish Regulations) available at all Southeast Alaska ADF&G area offices.

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## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The winter chinook salmon troll fishery in Southeast Alaska is managed in accordance with the Alaska Board of Fisheries Troll Management Plan [5 AAC 29.080] and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). The 2002 Southeast and Yakutat commercial winter troll season begins October 11, 2001 and will continue through April 14, 2002, or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested [5 AAC 29.070 (b)(1) and 5 AAC 29.080 (a)]. Chinook salmon caught beginning October 11, 2001 count towards the 2002 quota for all of Southeast Alaska. There is currently no quota established for the overall 2002 season; however, the winter troll fishery will be managed so the harvest of chinook salmon does not exceed 45,000 fish, with a guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 fish [5 AAC 29.080 (a)]. Any fish less than the 45,000 fish “cap” which are not harvested during the winter fishery are available in the spring and summer fisheries. The 45,000 fish cap has not been reached prior to April 14 in any year since 1995, when the cap went into effect.

## **2001 WINTER TROLL HARVEST**

The 2001 winter troll chinook catch was 22,582 fish, with a 12.3% Alaska hatchery contribution. This compares to a harvest of 36,000 fish with an Alaska hatchery contribution of 8.5% in 2000, and a 1996–2000 average catch of 26,027 fish. A total of 322 permits were fished in 2001. This compares to 310 in 2000 and a 1996–2000 average of 273 permits fished. Catch and effort in 2001 were highest in October, November, March, and April in most districts (Table 1).

## **REGULATION SUMMARY**

All regulations pertaining to the Southeast Alaska winter trolling season are listed in the 2000–2003 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Fishing Regulations (formally called Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Area Commercial Salmon and Miscellaneous Finfish Regulations). The following list is a guide to the pertinent winter regulatory subsections. Some of these regulations may be changed at any time by emergency order. Copies of emergency orders and regulation books are available at all Southeast Alaska Fish and Game area offices.

### *Fishing Areas and Times*

The winter troll fishery is confined to the area east of a line that extends from the southernmost tip of Point Manby to the easternmost tip of Ocean Cape and then continues along the surf line as described in [5 AAC 29.020 (b)] (Figure 1). Trolling is also allowed within 500 yards of the terminus of any salmon stream during the winter season [5 AAC 29.150 (a)(1)].

### *Closed Waters*

Salmon trolling is permitted in all previously mentioned areas and at all times during the winter season except as indicated in [5 AAC 29.080 (b)]. NOTE: the areas listed below in bold type were inadvertently left out of the 2000–2003 troll regulations. However, these areas do remain closed to winter trolling.

1. **District 1**
  - A. **Behm Canal (Section 1-D): is closed between a line from Nose Point to Snail Point and a line from Cactus Point to Point Eva.**
  
2. **District 8**
  - A. **Stikine River: waters inside a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough, to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, to the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island, to the northern end of Coney Island, to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore are closed.**
  
3. District 11
  - A. Section 11-A is closed except those waters south of the latitude of Outer Point and east of a line from Salisbury Point to Point Tantallon.
  
  - B. Section 11-B is open throughout the winter season except those waters north of the latitude of Graves Point Light are open only from October 11 through March 31.
  
4. District 15
  - A. Section 15-B is closed.

Note: Except for those areas specified in this section, all remaining waters listed in the “Closed Waters” section of the regulation book are open to trolling during the winter troll season.

### *Gear and Vessel Specifications and Registration*

- Troll vessels must be registered prior to fishing for the calendar year [5 AAC 29.115].
- For troll gear specifications and operations see [5 AAC 29.120].
- Troll vessels must be identified as specified in [5 AAC 39.119] and [5 AAC 29.125].

### *Size and Landing Requirements*

Chinook salmon caught in the troll fishery must be equal to or greater than 28 inches in total length and the heads of all adipose-fin clipped salmon must remain attached until the fish is sold. For further specifications see [5 AAC 29.140].

### *Sport Fishing and Chartering From a Registered Troll Vessel*

1. A person may sport fish from a registered commercial salmon troll or power troll vessel [5 AAC 47.041 (a)]. A troll gurdy may be used as a downrigger in conjunction with a sport fishing rod to sport fish for salmon. A person who sport fishes from a vessel licensed for commercial fishing, other than a charter vessel, in waters **closed to commercial salmon fishing** shall, immediately upon bringing a salmon onboard, **mark the salmon by removing its dorsal fin** [5 AAC 47.041 (c)]. This regulation also applies when a person is sport fishing for a **species closed to commercial trolling**. Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial fishing [5 AAC 47.041(d)]. The sport fishing season is open year-round for all species except as follows: halibut open February 1–December 31 and lingcod open May 1–November 30. For more detailed information on sport fishing regulations, refer to the Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for 2001 for Southeast Alaska, available at any Southeast ADF&G area office.
2. A registered troll vessel may also be registered as a charter vessel. Charter boat registration applications are available at Fish and Game offices. A vessel registered both as a commercial troller and as a charter vessel may not be used to troll commercially and charter in the same day [5 AAC 75.995(8)].

## MISCELLANEOUS TROLL FISHERY REGULATIONS RELATING TO HALIBUT AND GROUND FISH

For a complete guide to the Southeast Alaska groundfish regulations refer to the 2001–2002 Groundfish Fishery Commercial Fishery Regulations books available at all Southeast ADF&G area offices.

1. Commercial halibut may be legally retained only by trollers holding individual fishing quota shares (IFQs) during the open season for halibut, March 15–November 15 [50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 679.4(d)]. Trollers holding unfilled IFQs are required to retain any halibut taken incidentally while trolling [50 CFR 679.7(f)(11)]. Commercial fishing for halibut during a closed salmon troll season may be done only by fishers holding a valid halibut hand troll, mechanical jigging machine, or longline permit as well as IFQs [5 AAC 28.051(a)]. Halibut incidentally taken during an open commercial halibut season (March 15–November 15) by power and hand troll gear being operated for salmon are legally taken and possessed [5 AAC 28.133 (c)]. If trollers have no more than 500 pounds of halibut onboard, they can offload their catch without having to give a six-hour notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service [50 CFR 679.5 (1)(1)(iv)]. Halibut taken incidentally while trolling for salmon should be reported on the same troll ticket with the salmon catch.
2. Lingcod greater than 27” may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll gear fishery only from May 16 through November 30 [5 AAC 28.113(c)]. State waters will close to all lingcod retention on December 1. In the eastern Gulf of Alaska area, the department shall annually allocate the harvest in the lingcod commercial and sport fisheries [5 AAC 28.165(a)]. Trollers are allowed a 10% bycatch of lingcod against the round weight of salmon onboard. When the troll gear quota is reached for each management area, trollers will be required to release lingcod back into the water<sup>2</sup>. The troll lingcod quotas have been reached in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) management area, so NO lingcod bycatch is allowed in this area until May 16, 2002 (Figure 2). If the troll allocation for other areas is reached before November 30, a news release will be issued from the Sitka office notifying the fleet of the impending closure. Within the winter trolling area, the waters of Sitka Sound [5 AAC 28.150(a)] are closed at all times to the retention of lingcod by trollers.

Trollers are requested to retain tagged lingcod of any size and from any area. Trollers should notify the nearest Fish and Game office at the time of delivery so the fish may be sampled (in Sitka, contact Cleo Brylinsky, 304 Lake Street, Room 103; phone — 907-747-6688). The tags should be left on the fish. The date, exact location, and depth should be recorded. A reward will be given to those who turn in tagged lingcod with the necessary catch information.

3. Full retention of Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) is required in all state waters. In the Southeast District, a CFEC permit holder must retain, weigh, and report all DSR taken. All DSR in excess of 10% round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch shall be surrendered to the state [5 AAC 28.171(a)]. The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, rosethorn, copper, china, and tiger rockfish. Open areas within the winter troll area include the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI), the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI), and that portion of the Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) which is east

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<sup>2</sup> Established by Emergency Order 1-G-11-01.

of the surfline. Closed waters within the winter troll area include all waters of the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) section (Figure 2). Trollers should be aware that the DSR season may close on short notice when quotas are reached.

Full retention of **all rockfish** is required in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) subdistricts. A permit holder must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken. All rockfish in excess of the allowable bycatch limits must be reported as bycatch overage on the fish ticket and proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish will go the state [5 AAC 28.171(f)]. This regulation applies to all DSR, pelagic, and slope rockfish species (*Sebastes*), except for Thornyhead rockfish (species: *Sebastolobes*). Thornyhead rockfish landed in excess of the bycatch limits are to be returned to the water or landed on a Miscellaneous (M) finfish card if the directed fishery for thornyheads is open in inside waters.

4. A mechanical jigging machine is a device that deploys a line with hooks and retrieves that line and hooks with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance; a mechanical jigging machine allows the line with hooks only to be fished in the water column; a mechanical jigging machine must be attached to a vessel registered to fish with a mechanical jigging machine and may not be anchored or operated off the vessel [5 AAC 39.105 (d)(25)].
5. In the Eastern Gulf Area, dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line that is retrieved and set with a power or hand-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 underway [5 AAC 28.130(h)]. Dinglebar troll gear is essentially the same as power-troll or hand-troll gear, the difference lies in the species targeted and the permit required. Dinglebar troll gear can be used in the directed fisheries for groundfish or halibut. These species may be taken only incidentally while fishing for salmon with power or hand troll gear.
6. It is unlawful for any person to possess salmon aboard a vessel that is equipped to take, or that during the most recent open fishing period has taken, groundfish or halibut with a mechanical jigging machine or dinglebar troll gear [5 AAC 28.133(b)(1)]. A person may not purchase or sell salmon from any vessel that has taken groundfish or halibut with a mechanical jigging machine or dinglebar troll gear during the most recent open fishing period [5 AAC 28.133(b)(2)].
7. Trollers are allowed to longline for groundfish and troll for salmon on the same trip, as long as salmon are not onboard the vessel in an area that is closed to trolling. A longline is a stationary buoyed or anchored line or a floating, free drifting line with lures or baited hooks attached [5 AAC 39.105(d)(13)].
8. A salmon troll vessel, or a person on board a salmon troll vessel, may not participate in the taking of salmon during an open salmon troll fishing period if commercial hand troll, power troll, or mechanical jig fishing gear on the salmon troll vessel was used to take fish during the 72 hours period (3 days) immediately before the open salmon troll fishing period [5 AAC 29.120 (h)(1)] or that will take fish during the 24-hour period immediately after an open salmon trolling fishing period [5 AAC 29.120(h)(2)]. Therefore, trollers are prohibited from harvesting halibut, lingcod, or other groundfish species commercially on October 8–10 if they intend to participate in the winter troll fishery opening on October 11.

## FISHERY CONTACTS

The following commercial fisheries management staff may be contacted regarding this report:

### **Ketchikan**

Don House  
Scott Walker  
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
(907) 225-5195

### **Juneau**

Jason Shull  
Scott Kelley  
P.O. Box 240020  
Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020  
(907) 465-4250

### **Haines**

Randy Bachman  
P.O. Box 330  
Haines, Alaska 99827-0330  
(907) 766-2830

### **Wrangell**

Ryan Hardy  
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Wrangell, Alaska 99929-0200

### **Petersburg**

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Troy Thynes  
P.O. Box 667  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833-0667  
(907) 772-3801

### **Yakutat**

Gordie Woods  
P.O. Box 49  
Yakutat, Alaska 99689-0049  
(907) 784-3255

### **Sitka**

Pattie Skannes  
Bill Davidson  
Dave Gordon  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
(907) 747-6688

## ADDITIONAL TROLL INFORMATION

For weekly updated troll information, call the 24-hour information lines in the Douglas Office at (907) 465-TROL (8765) or the Sitka office at (907) 747-TROL (8765). In addition, the following telephone numbers may be called during the troll season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to trolling.

Ketchikan-(907) 225-6870

Petersburg-(907) 772-3700

For further catch and regulatory information you may access the commercial troll website at:

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/finfish/salmon/trolinfo.htm>

Table 1. Winter troll chinook harvest, October 11, 2000 through April 14, 2001. Weeks and districts with less than 3 permits fished are omitted due to confidentiality considerations. Therefore, the total may not reflect the sum of the weekly catches shown.

District	Week	Number of Chinook	Number of permits
101	14	9	3
<b>101 Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>102 Total</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>4</b>
103	50	39	3
<b>103 Total</b>		<b>332</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>104 Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>
105	4	24	3
	5	20	3
	6	28	3
	7	30	3
	9	69	6
	10	41	6
	11	82	8
	12	74	5
	13	122	8
	14	201	15
	15	113	14
<b>105 Total</b>		<b>875</b>	<b>28</b>
106	6	8	4
	7	13	5
	8	7	4
	9	5	3
	13	4	3
<b>106 Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>10</b>
107	42	34	3
<b>107 Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>
108	45	8	3
	46	11	3
<b>108 Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>12</b>
109	10	38	3
	12	79	3
	13	140	6
	14	167	8
	15	170	13
<b>109 Total</b>		<b>707</b>	<b>27</b>
110	42	174	9

Table 1. (page 2 of 3)

District	Week	Number of Chinook	Number of permits
(cont.) 110	43	65	5
	44	97	4
	13	44	3
	14	21	4
	15	37	4
<b>110 Total</b>		<b>581</b>	<b>22</b>
111	42	71	3
<b>111 Total</b>		<b>229</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>112 Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>
113	42	739	29
	43	2,232	65
	44	1,950	81
	45	886	57
	46	1,318	68
	47	1,312	60
	48	318	27
	49	245	32
	50	288	35
	51	90	15
	52	76	12
	53	90	10
	2	43	10
	4	76	22
	5	88	12
	6	169	29
	7	230	28
	8	138	27
	9	251	29
	10	152	27
11	819	53	
12	608	45	
13	840	72	
14	1,874	103	
15	1,030	84	
<b>113 Total</b>		<b>15,865</b>	<b>179</b>
114	42	66	9
	43	43	13
	44	5	3
	5	37	3
	7	67	6
	9	33	5
	10	59	8
	11	60	8
	12	19	5
	13	79	11
	14	493	22

Table 1. (page 3 of 3)

District	Week	Number of Chinook	Number of permits
(cont.) 114	15	545	23
<b>114 Total</b>		<b>1,604</b>	<b>48</b>
183	45	10	3
	46	77	9
	47	62	8
	48	68	9
	49	34	8
	50	61	10
	51	48	8
	52	55	7
	53	36	8
	1	21	7
	2	23	7
	3	36	6
	4	43	8
	5	46	7
	6	81	12
	7	74	12
	8	37	9
	10	7	3
	11	10	7
	13	14	4
	14	303	14
	15	839	16
<b>183 Total</b>		<b>2,021</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>22,582</b>	<b>322</b>

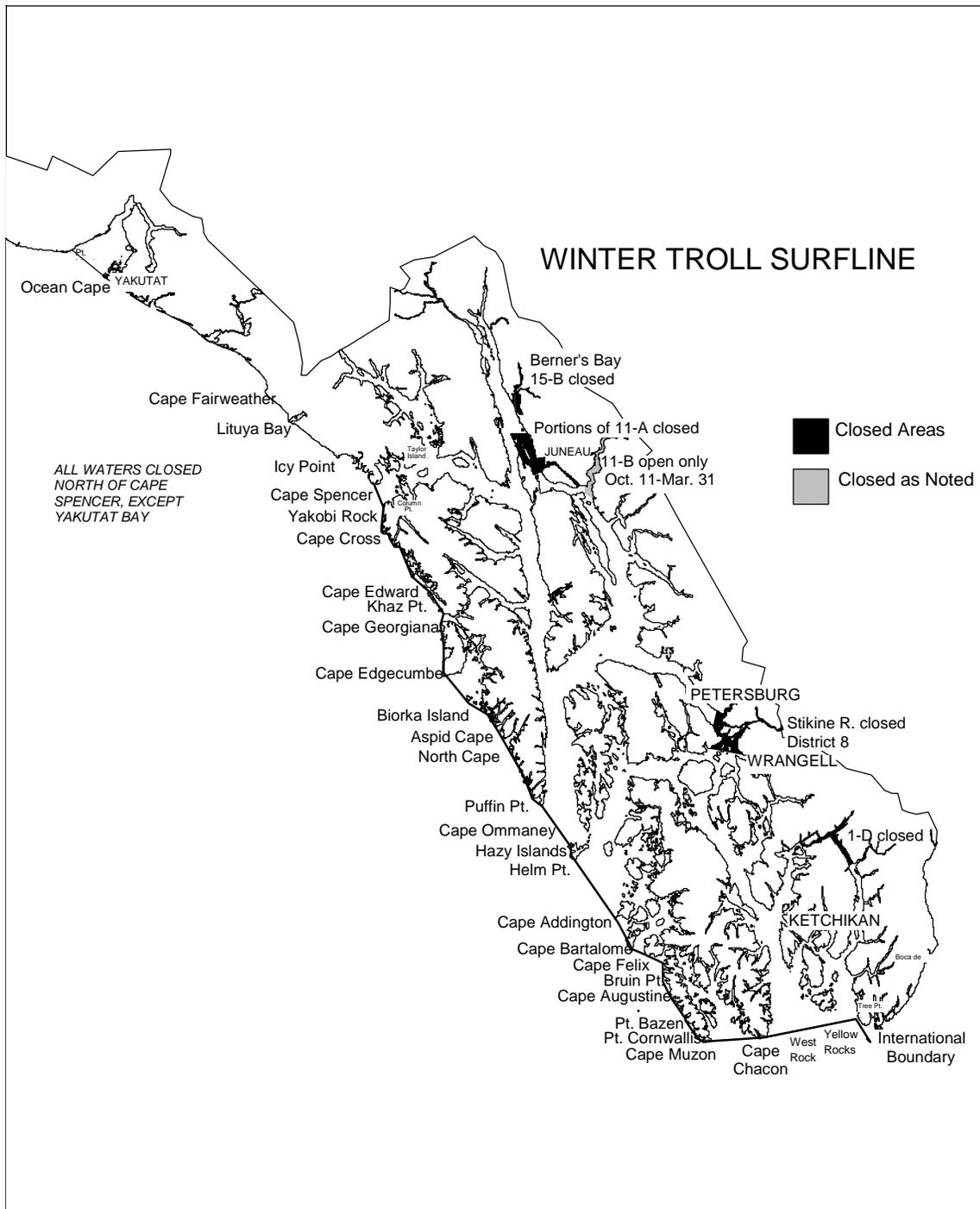


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery areas. For a full description of areas closed to winter trolling see pages 5 and 6 of this guide. **Note:** the Stikine River and Behm Canal closed waters were inadvertently left out of the 2000–2003 troll regulations, however, these areas do remain closed to winter trolling.

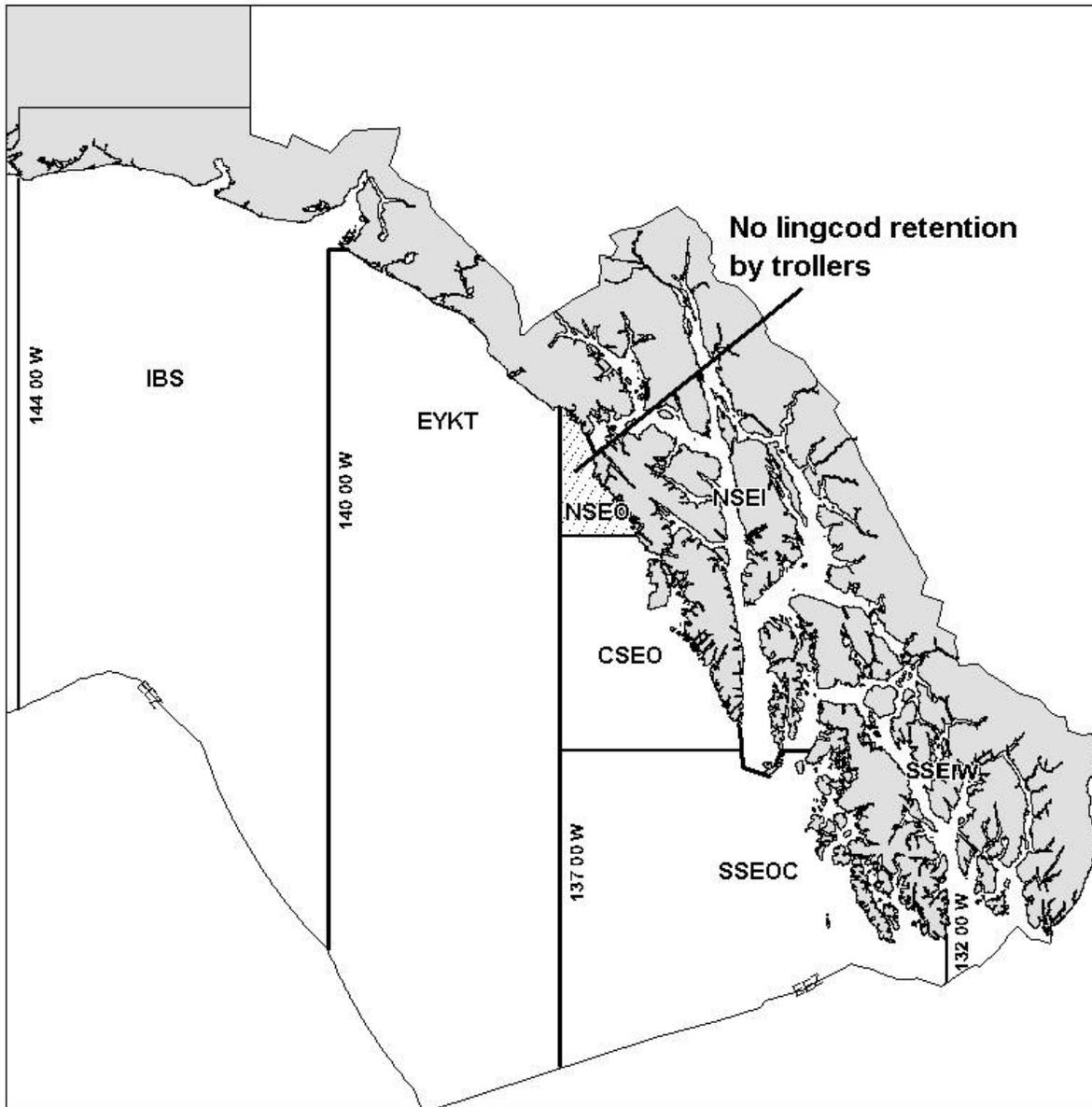


Figure 2. Southeast Alaska areas open to lingcod retention by trollers during the winter troll season. All areas will close to lingcod retention on December 1, 2001, unless closed earlier by emergency order. See pages 7–8 of this guide for further regulations pertaining to groundfish retention.

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