



Advisory Announcement
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**2020 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED PACIFIC COD FISHERY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska directed Pacific cod fishery. The directed Pacific cod season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2020, unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

Guideline Harvest Range

The annual guideline harvest range for the taking of Pacific cod in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts (Figure 1) combined is 750,000 – 1,250,000 pounds round weight [5 AAC 28.160 (f)]. The department will monitor the catch of Pacific cod by geographic area to prevent localized depletion and overharvest of spawning aggregations. The department will continue to manage this resource as it has in the past, closing specific areas as necessary to distribute effort and harvest throughout NSEI and SSEI. **Management decisions will be based on a seasonal harvest period of July 1 through June 30 to avoid overharvest of Pacific cod during winter spawning aggregations.**

The directed Pacific cod fishery in state waters on the outer coast is managed in conjunction with the federal fishery, which takes place in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (3–200 nm offshore). Because the federal fishery is closed for 2020 in the Gulf of Alaska, state outside waters (0-3 nm) will also be closed. For information on the federal Pacific cod fishery, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division of NOAA Fisheries at (800) 304-4846 (#3) or (907) 586-7228.

Closed Waters (Figure 1)

In the NSEI Subdistrict, the following areas are closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod: the waters of Glacier Bay north of a line from Point Carolus at 58°22.694' N. latitude, 136°02.535' W. longitude to Point Gustavus at 58°22.748' N. latitude, 135°54.927' W. longitude, and the waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line from 58°22.900' N. latitude, 136°25.300' W. longitude to 58°23.600' N. latitude, 136°24.600' W. longitude. For additional information contact Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve at (907) 697-2230.

Annette Islands Reserve (Figure 1)

Fishermen are reminded the Annette Islands Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants.

Legal Gear

Pacific cod may be taken in the directed Pacific cod fishery only by longline, jig gear (dinglebar troll, hand troll, mechanical jigging machines), and pots. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for the directed Pacific cod fishery is the Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish permit (M card) and it is issued specific to a gear type.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for State Waters Directed Pacific Cod Longline and Jig Fisheries:

Percentage indicates the amount that may be sold and is based on the round weight of Pacific cod on board. Longline and jig bycatch allowances are the same unless otherwise noted.

BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10% in aggregate. Full retention required.
Silvergray Rockfish	20%. Full retention required.
Shortraker, Rougheye and Thornyhead Rockfish	20% in aggregate. Full retention for SR and RE.
Black, Blue and Dark Rockfish	Aggregated with "Other Rockfish". Full retention required.
Other Rockfish	20% in aggregate. Full retention required all rockfish.
Lingcod ¹	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. Bycatch permitted until GHM taken. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 20% SSEOC. Mechanical jig and hand troll gear only. May 16- Nov 30 or until GHM taken. 0%, NSEI & SSEIW.
Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 20%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Skates	Aggregated with "Other Groundfish".
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.

¹The minimum size limit for lingcod is 27” from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5” from front of the dorsal fin to tip of tail. Lingcod Management Areas include NSEI, Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sectors, Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), and the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Sections (5 AAC 28.105).

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for State Waters Directed Pacific Cod Pot Fishery:

BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI
Thornyhead	5%.
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) and Black Rockfish	0%. Full retention required.
Other Rockfish	0%. Full retention required.
Lingcod	0%, no retention.
Spiny Dogfish	20%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Skates	Aggregated with "Other Groundfish".
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.

General Provisions

A CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish in the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts must retain, weigh, and report on fish tickets all rockfish taken [5 AAC 28.171]. Full retention is not required for thornyheads. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish. All proceeds from the sale of rockfish taken in excess of legal bycatch limits shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska. A permit holder may retain excess full retention rockfish bycatch for personal use; however, the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain the maximum retainable bycatch (20%) of pollock when the directed fishery for pollock is closed [5 AAC 28.070 (e)(2)]. There is not a directed pollock fishery in NSEI or SSEI therefore the directed pollock fishery is closed.

Logbooks are required for this fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket at the time of that landing (5 AAC 28.175). For each set, fishermen are required to report on logbooks the date, latitude and longitude (degrees and decimal minutes) for start and end positions of each set, hook spacing, amount of gear (skates and hooks), depth of each set, and estimated catch per set by species. Logbooks are available at ADF&G area offices.

Vessels operating as catcher–sellers and delivering Pacific cod on the grounds as bait shall complete a fish ticket documenting the sale at the time of each transaction. Fish tickets shall be assigned and attached to the appropriate logbook page(s) documenting the effort and harvest for that delivery. If the harvest documented on a logbook page involves multiple delivery transactions, the partial delivery box on each fish ticket shall be completed and fishermen shall list the preprinted fish ticket numbers on the corresponding logbook page(s). A disposition code of “61” (sold for bait) and the appropriate delivery code shall be documented on each fish ticket.

Fishermen are advised that Pacific cod area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report, National Weather Service broadcast and on the Groundfish Project’s telephone hotline, (907) 747-4882.

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

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

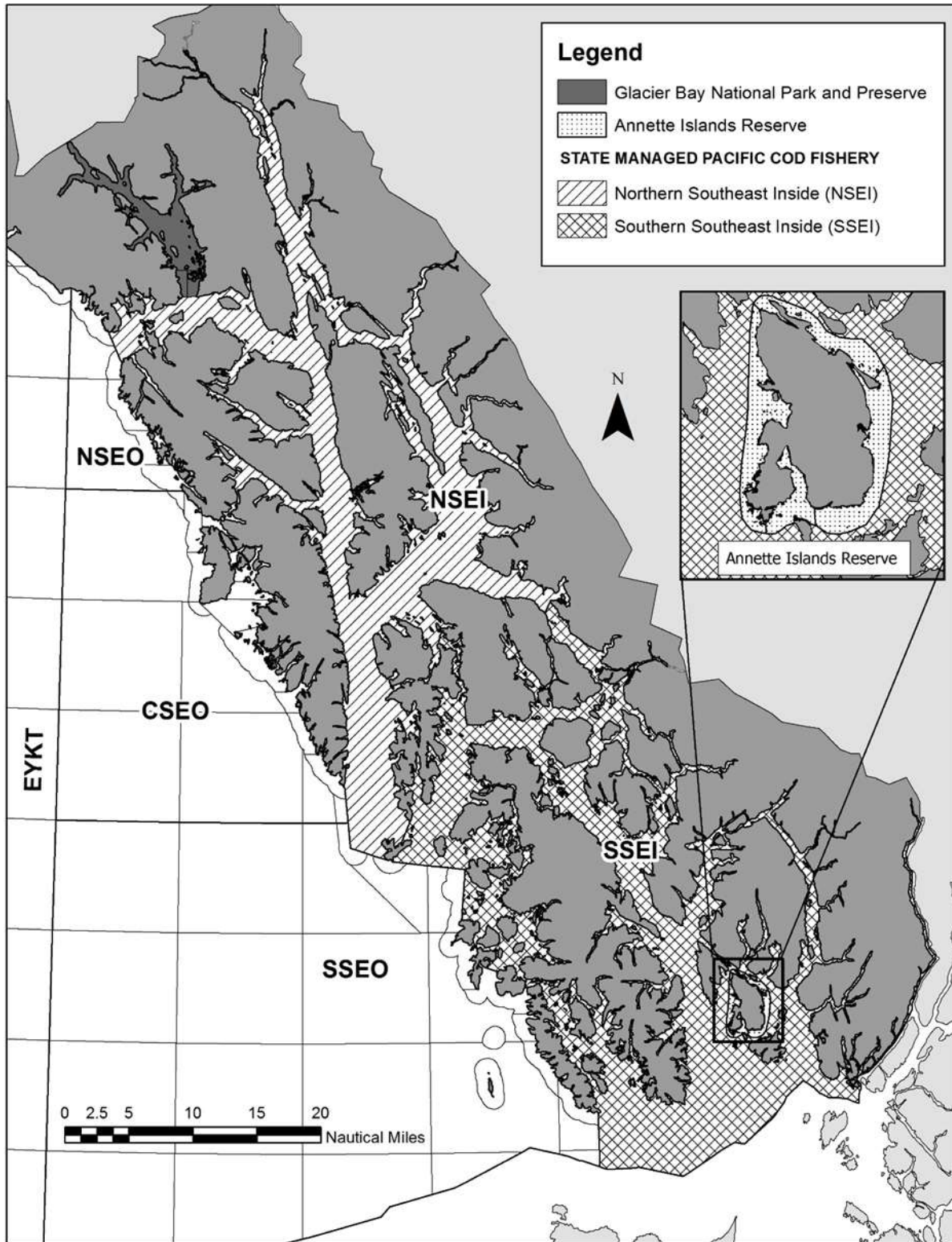


Figure 1. NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts including restricted waters of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Annette Islands Reserve. For detailed descriptions of Management Area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.

THIS MAP IS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE ONLY