



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 23, 2020

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2020 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, 2020. Lingcod management areas will remain open to directed lingcod fishing until harvest allocations are taken or 11:59 p.m., November 30, 2020, whichever occurs first.

Directed lingcod fishery allocations, in round pounds:

Lingcod Management Areas (Figure 1)	Allocation (round pounds)
Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)	46,000
East Yakutat (EYKT) Section	111,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector	50,100
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict	0
Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector	0

Lingcod size limits (5 AAC 28.173 (e))

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. Undersized lingcod must be returned to the water immediately without further harm.

Legal gear (5 AAC 28.130 and 5 AAC 28.135)

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) “I” interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. Lingcod may be taken in a directed lingcod fishery only by mechanical jigging machines (I26B), dinglebar troll gear (I25B), and hand troll gear (I05B). 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.

A mechanical jigging machine is a device that deploys a single line with lures or baited hooks and retrieves that line with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance. No more than five mechanical jigging machines, with no more than 30 hooks per line may be operated from a vessel. A mechanical jigging machine allows a line to be fished only in the water column, in a manner that the hooks connected to the line are fished above the seafloor; a mechanical jigging machine line may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel. In addition, a mechanical jigging machine line may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion.

Closed waters (5 AAC 28.150)

Directed fishing for lingcod is prohibited in the following areas:

Sitka Sound Special Use Area: the waters of CSEO 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.

Edgecumbe Pinnacle Marine Reserve: the waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.50' N. lat., 56°57.00' N. lat., 135°54.00' W. long., and 135°57.00' W. long.

Gulf of Alaska Coral Protection Areas: there is one HAPC (Habitat Areas of Particular Concern) near Cape Ommaney and four HAPCs on the Fairweather Grounds that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear, including dinglebar troll gear. For additional information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228. Locations of the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679 at: https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=867c7ff7af2fe6649ecd2965a60a0a5d&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5#ap50.13.679.0000_0nbspnbspnbspn.60.

Federal fisheries permit

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 all rockfish is required in EEZ waters. If a vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess an FFP. FFPs are not required for vessels fishing lingcod in state waters. For information on FFPs contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202, 800-304-4846, or refer to: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-federal-fisheries-permit-and-federal-processor-permit-applications>.

Vessel registration (5 AAC 28.106)

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 (IBS) 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. Vessel registration forms are available at ADF&G area offices.

Logbooks (5 AAC 28.175)

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 for the lingcod fishery include date, **specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes** and nearest headland, number of lines and total number of hooks used, average depth fished, hours fished, number of lingcod retained and discarded, lingcod sex ratio, number of bycatch fish taken by species for each unique geographic location fished, and the tag number, date, and location of capture of any tagged fish landed. Logbooks and confidential envelopes used for submitting logbooks may be obtained at ADF&G area offices.

Area closures

Catch and effort will be closely monitored, and fishermen should expect area closures on short notice. Lingcod closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and the National Weather Service broadcast. Area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

Federal rockfish landing requirements

As of March 23, 2020, federal regulations require that the operator of a federally-permitted catcher vessel using hook and line, pot, or jig gear in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Alaska **retain and land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish or halibut**. The maximum commerce allowance (MCA) for rockfish is 15% in aggregate, of which 5% can be yelloweye rockfish in all areas, except in the Southeast Outside District of the Gulf of Alaska (SEO) where the MCA for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) species is limited to 10% of the aggregate round weight of the target species. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish (5 AAC 39.975 (34)).

Rockfish taken in federal waters must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket, and rockfish in excess of bycatch allowances must be reported as bycatch overage. Rockfish overage from federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce. For more information, refer to: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-119-fmp-groundfish-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-and-amendment-107-fmp>.

Rockfish possession and landing requirements (5 AAC 28.171)

In the Southeast District, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all DSR taken.

In the EGOA, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all black rockfish taken.

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 taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish from state waters retained due to full retention requirements may be kept for personal use; however, the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

Groundfish bycatch allowances for the directed lingcod fishery

Allowable bycatch limits for rockfish have been adjusted to facilitate consistency between state and federal regulations and are **effective for state waters and state managed groundfish taken in federal waters as of March 14, 2020** (5 AAC 28.070 (b)). A vessel or CFEC permit holder who is directed fishing for lingcod may retain and sell the bycatch percentages shown in the table below. The amount of bycatch that may be sold is based on the round weight of lingcod and bycatch species or species group.

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR ¹ in aggregate
Pacific cod	20%
Spiny Dogfish	20%
Skates	5% in aggregate
Sablefish	0%, no retention
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate

¹ State and federal waters of Southeast Outside Subdistrict: EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC; also IBS state waters (0-3 nm). In federal waters (3-200 nm) of IBS, the MCA for rockfish is 15% in aggregate, of which 5% can be yelloweye.

For information on bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA enforcement at 907-747-6940 (Sitka), 907-586-7225 (Juneau), 907-772-2285 (Petersburg), or 907- 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

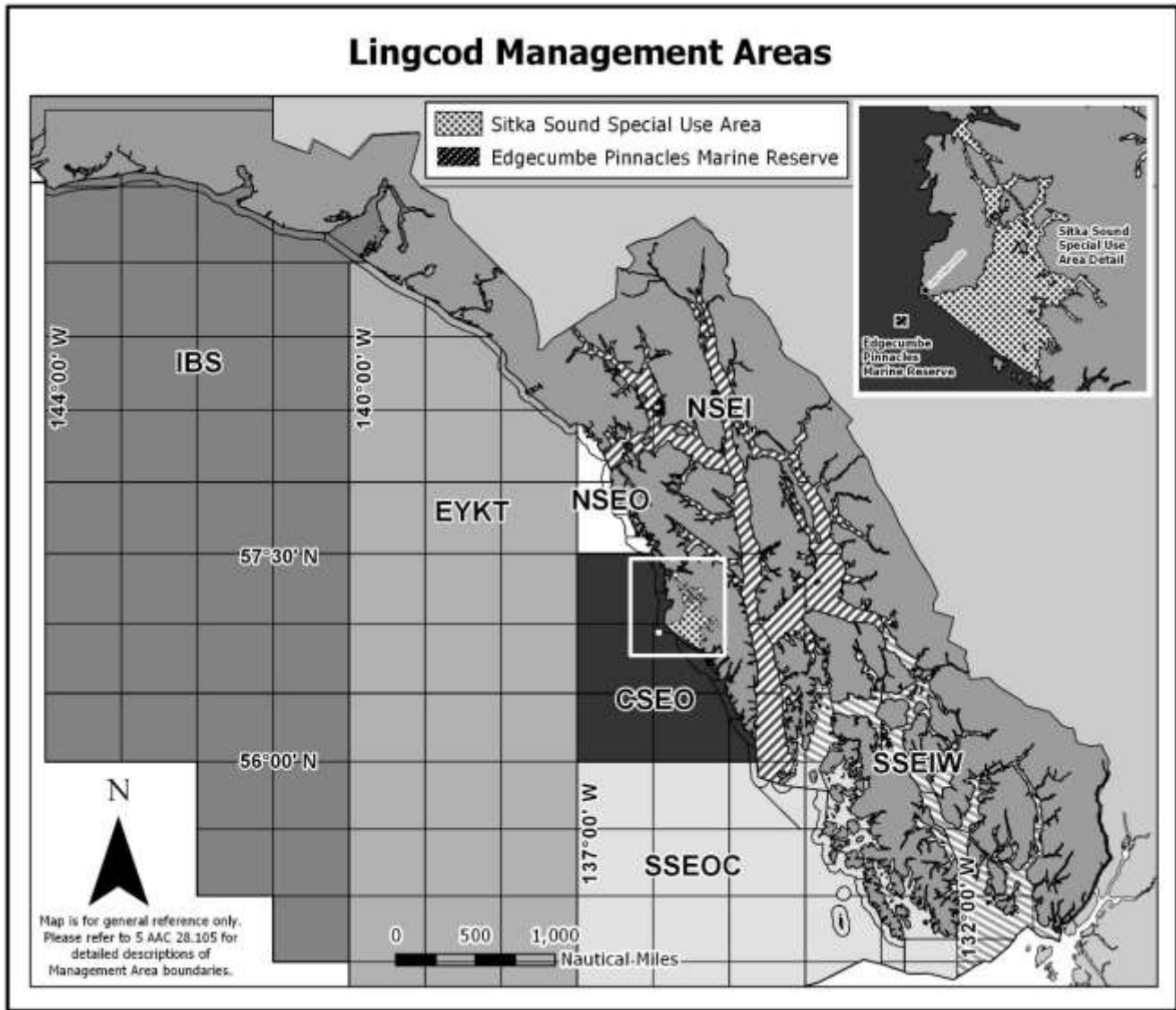


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Areas. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105. This map is for general information purposes only.

Advisory announcement website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
Groundfish Hotline				747-4882			