



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Lingcod Season Opens Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-07-20

The commercial season for the Prince William Sound Area (PWS) directed lingcod fishery **will open July 1** and will close December 31 or earlier by emergency order. Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are 7,300 pounds for the Inside District and 25,300 pounds for the Outside District, including adjacent federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

To participate in the directed lingcod fishery, fishermen must possess a valid gear-appropriate Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission lingcod permit card and a PWS Directed Lingcod Area Registration. Groundfish registrations may be obtained at department offices in Anchorage, Homer, and Cordova. Participants are encouraged to register by phone/fax by contacting the Homer ADF&G office at 907-235-8191 (fax: 907-235-2448).

To help meet biological sampling objectives, Emergency Order (EO) 2-GF-E-07-20 requires **lingcod be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact** as evidence of gender. Retained lingcod must measure at least **35 inches** from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

ADF&G management authority for lingcod extends into federal waters of the EEZ. In addition to state requirements of a gear-appropriate permit card and area registration, fishermen targeting lingcod in the EEZ also are required to have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP). FFP application forms are available online at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/ffpapp.pdf> and at National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices in Homer, Anchorage, or Seward .

Steller Sea Lion rookery closures: Directed fishing for all groundfish species (including lingcod) is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS, Seal Rocks and Wooded Island (Fish Island). reference <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab12.pdf> for specific descriptions and regulatory language or contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780.

Beginning July 1, lingcod may be retained as bycatch up to 20 percent of the directed harvest aboard the vessel, including lingcod taken incidentally by drift gillnet gear operated for salmon.

Fishermen targeting groundfish, including lingcod, or halibut in PWS state waters **must retain all rockfish** and comply with rockfish trip limits. Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for the PWS directed lingcod fishery are set by Emergency Order 2-GF-E-04-20.

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COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here:

<https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

Please visit the website www.whittieralaska.gov for COVID-19 information links regarding the City of Whittier.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer at (907) 235-8191.

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