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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

December 24, 2020

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Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula–Eastern District 2021 Black Rockfish Guideline Harvest Levels and Dark Rockfish Bycatch Limits

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has established guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for the 2021 commercial black rockfish seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula–Eastern District areas as follows:

Area	GHL (pounds)
Kodiak Area (Total)	120,000
Afognak District	30,000
Northeast District	10,000
Eastside District	30,000
Southeast District	40,000
Westside District	10,000
Southwest District	bycatch only
Mainland District	bycatch only
Chignik Area	100,000
No more than 45,000 pounds may be taken from a district	
South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District	75,000

The Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District black rockfish fisheries will open at 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2021. Fisheries will close by emergency order when GHLs are achieved or December 31, 2021 if GHLs are not achieved.

Mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear are the legal gear types for the directed fishery. A 2021 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim-use permit for miscellaneous finfish and an ADF&G black rockfish vessel registration are required before participating in the fishery. Logbooks are required for all vessels during the directed fishery and must be submitted to ADF&G after each delivery.

Kodiak Area:

DIRECTED FISHERY: A nonexclusive black rockfish area registration and district vessel registration is required prior to fishing. Vessel operators may not simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish

fishery and state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Fishery participants may not have onboard or sell more than 5,000 pounds (whole fish weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive 5-day period.

BYCATCH: Vessels using jig gear may retain black rockfish up to 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard unless modified by emergency order. Non-jig gear vessels may retain black rockfish up to 5 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard. Black rockfish registration and logbooks are not required for black rockfish retained as allowable bycatch.

Chignik Area:

Vessel operators must obtain a superexclusive black rockfish vessel registration prior to participating in the directed fishery. Chignik Area vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery, including the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Black rockfish may be retained as bycatch up to 5 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard.

South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District:

Vessel operators must obtain a nonexclusive black rockfish vessel registration prior to participating in the directed fishery. South Alaska Peninsula Area vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery, including the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Black rockfish may be retained as bycatch up to 5 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard.

Dark Rockfish

There are no directed fisheries for dark rockfish in the Kodiak, Chignik, or South Alaska Peninsula Areas.

In the Kodiak Area, non-jig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 5 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel and jig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel.

In the Chignik Area and the South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District, bycatch of dark rockfish by any gear type may not exceed 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel.

For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, 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 Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>

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