



Advisory Announcement
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CONTACT: Jacob Metzger
Groundfish Biologist
jacob.metzger@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6701

2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED PACIFIC COD FISHERY

The directed Pacific cod season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2021, unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

The 2021 Pacific cod guideline harvest range is 750,000–1,250,000 pounds round weight for the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) subdistricts (Figure 1) combined [5 AAC 28.160 (f)]. The department will monitor the catch of Pacific cod by geographic area including Frederick Sound, Icy Strait, Lynn Canal, Stephens Passage, and Chatham Strait to prevent localized depletion and overharvest of spawning aggregations.

The department will manage this resource by 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, 3–200 nm offshore. 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.

Areas closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod (Figure 1):

- The waters of Glacier Bay north of a line from Point Carolus at 58°22.694' N lat, 136°02.535' W long to Point Gustavus at 58°22.748' N lat, 135°54.927' W long. The waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line from 58°22.900' N lat, 136°25.300' W long to 58°23.600' N lat, 136°24.600' W long. For more information contact Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve at (907) 697-2230.
- 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 the 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 by longline, jig gear (dinglebar troll, hand troll, mechanical jiggling 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

CFEC permit holders directed fishing for Pacific cod in state waters may retain and sell the following bycatch percentages, based on the round weight of Pacific cod on board. Bycatch allowances are the same for longline and jig gear types unless noted. Demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) includes: yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish.

GEAR TYPE	BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS (NSEI and SSEI)	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0–3 MILES)
LONGLINE AND JIG	Rockfish	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR. Full retention is required for all rockfish, excluding thornyhead.	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR. Full retention is required for DSR and black rockfish.
	Lingcod*	<u>Longline fishery</u> : 35%; bycatch permitted until GHl taken <u>Jig fishery</u> : 20% SSEOC; May 16–November 30, or until GHl taken. Mechanical jig and hand troll gear only; 0% in NSEI and SSEIW	<u>Longline fishery</u> : 35%; bycatch permitted until GHl taken <u>Jig fishery</u> : 20% in CSEO & SSEOC; May 16–November 30, or until GHl taken. Mechanical jig and hand troll gear only. 0% in IBS, EYKT, & NSEO.
	Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery</u> : 35% <u>Jig fishery</u> : 20%	<u>Longline fishery</u> : 35% <u>Jig fishery</u> : 20%
	Sablefish	0%, no retention	0%, no retention
	Skates	Aggregated with “Other Groundfish”	5%
	Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate	20% in aggregate
	POT	Thornyhead	5%
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) and Black Rockfish		0%, full retention required	0%, full retention required
Other Rockfish		0%, full retention required	0%
Lingcod		0%, no retention	0%, no retention
Spiny Dogfish		20%	20%
Sablefish		0%, no retention	0%, no retention
Skates		Aggregated with "Other Groundfish"	5%
Other Groundfish		20% in aggregate	20% in aggregate

*The 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).

General Provisions:

- CFEC permit holders directed fishing for Pacific cod in the NSEI and SSEI subdistricts must retain, weigh, and report on fish tickets all rockfish taken (5 AAC 28.171); however, full retention is not required for thornyhead rockfish. CFEC permit holders directed fishing for Pacific cod in state waters (0–3 miles) on the outer coast of the Southeast District must retain, weight, and report on fish tickets all DSR and black rockfish taken. All rockfish exceeding allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Rockfish bycatch overage from state waters exceeding legal limits may be retained for personal use or sold. However, 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.
- Pacific cod area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report, National Weather Service broadcast, and on the Groundfish Project’s telephone hotline - (907) 747-4882.

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 Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

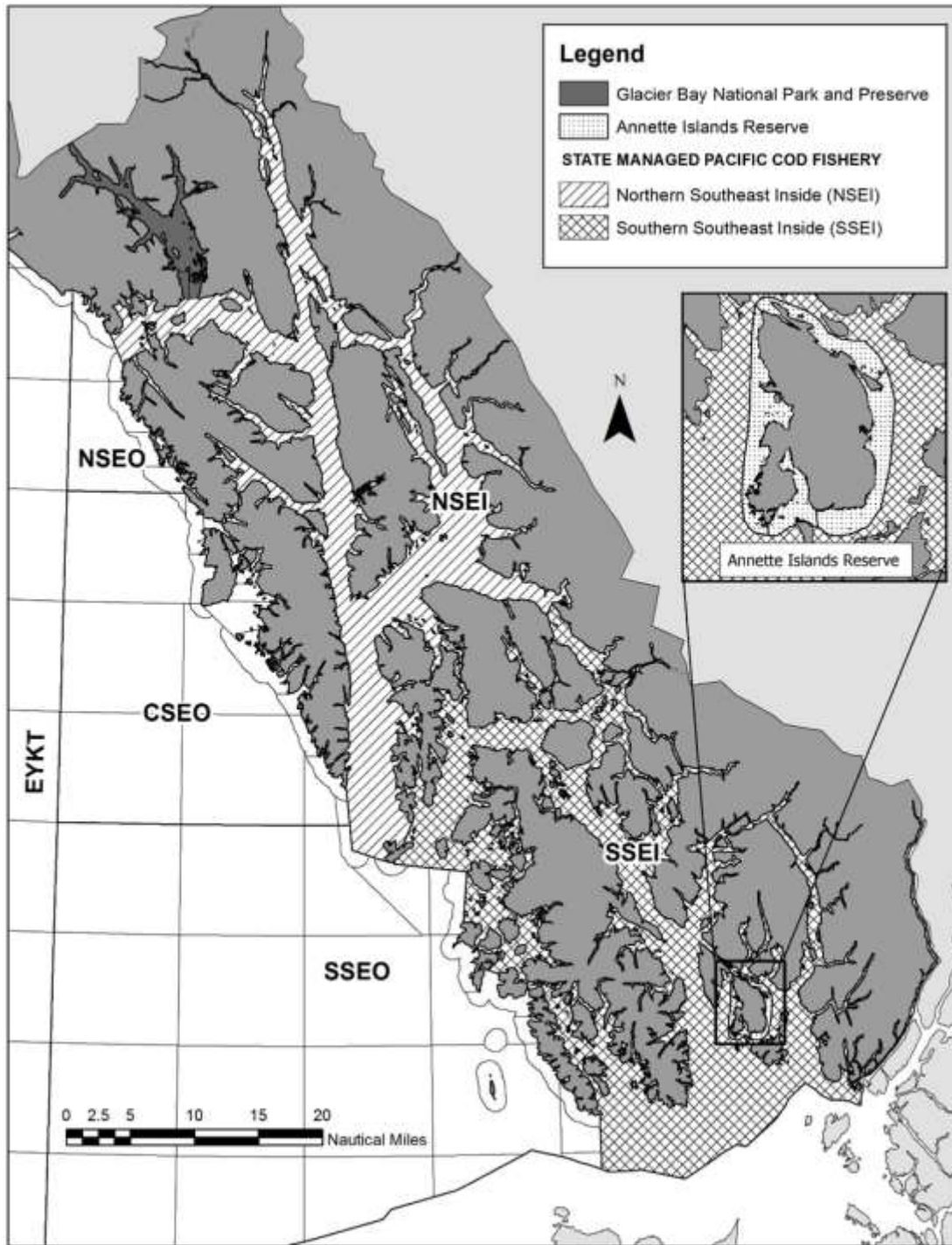


Figure 1.—NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts including restricted waters of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Annette Islands Reserve. For detailed descriptions of Management Area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105. This map is for general reference only.

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

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