Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement For Immediate Release: May 20, 2021 CONTACT: Jacob Metzger Region I Groundfish Biologist jacob.metzger@alaska.gov (907) 747-6701

ICY BAY SUBDISTRICT (IBS) LINGCOD LONGLINE BYCATCH CLOSURE

The retention of lingcod bycatch in the commercial longline fisheries will close in the entire Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) at 11:59 p.m., Friday, May 21, 2021. The 12,670 lb lingcod guideline harvest level (GHL) for IBS longline fisheries is estimated to be taken at the time of closure.

The lingcod bycatch season remains open for longline fisheries (excluding sablefish) of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area in the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector. Updates of area closures for all bycatch lingcod fisheries are available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882. Lingcod catches will be closely monitored, and fishermen should expect additional area closures on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and the National Weather Service marine broadcast.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <u>https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/</u>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0521.

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

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AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255