



Advisory Announcement
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**REGULATORY UPDATES FOR GROUNDFISH BYCATCH IN STATE WATERS
AND STATE MANAGED GROUNDFISH TAKEN IN THE FEDERAL
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN GULF OF ALASKA**

Regulations adopted at the 2022 Southeast Board of Fisheries meeting will become effective **September 25, 2022**, (<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=207942>) and are summarized for the 2022 Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) commercial fisheries as follows:

State Bycatch Regulatory Updates

The following changes in bycatch retention and allowance regulations pertain to state waters and to state managed species taken in federal waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (EGOA) Area, east of 144° W. longitude.

- A vessel or Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut **must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish caught including thornyhead rockfish** [5 AAC 28.171(a)].
- The allowable bycatch percentage by species/species group and by gear type is based on the aggregate round weight of retained IFQ halibut and/or IFQ sablefish on board the vessel [5 AAC 28.130(d)(3) and 5 AAC 28.171(a)].

The demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish [5 AAC 39.975(34)]. All rockfish and thornyhead rockfish 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 and thornyhead rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish retained due to full retention requirements may be retained for personal use; however, the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

Federal Bycatch Requirements

As a reminder, federal regulations require that operators of federally-permitted catcher vessels 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 where the MCA for DSR species is limited to 10% of the aggregate round weight of retained IFQ halibut, and 1% of the aggregate round weight of retained IFQ sablefish.

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>.

For more information on bycatch possession and landing requirements, refer to the 2022 Groundfish Bycatch Regulations advisory announcement issued on March 1, 2022.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G1322.

Allowable bycatch limits in the IFQ Halibut fishery. A vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for IFQ halibut may retain and sell the following bycatch percentages shown in the table below. The amount of bycatch that may be sold is based on the aggregate round weight of retained IFQ halibut and the round weight of each bycatch species or species group.

BYCATCH SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0-3 MILES)	INTERNAL WATERS (NSEI and SSEI)
Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR Full retention required for all rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR Full retention required for all rockfish, including thornyheads
Lingcod	20% in EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC 5% in IBS Bycatch allowed for longline gear only ; lingcod bycatch permitted until area GHL taken. Minimum size limit: 27" (tip of snout to tip of tail) or 20.5" (front of dorsal fin to tip of tail). <i>No lingcod bycatch allowed in the sablefish fishery or caught by pot gear</i>	20% in NSEI 5% in SSEIW
Pacific cod	20%	
Spiny Dogfish	35% for longline gear; 20% for jig gear	
Skates	5% in aggregate	
Sablefish	0%, no retention	
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate	

For information on the IFQ bycatch allowances in federal waters, refer to:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-679#Table-10-to-Part-679> and <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-679/appendix-Table%2011%20to%20Part%20679> or contact NOAA enforcement: 907-747-6940 (Sitka); 907-586-7225 (Juneau); 907-772-2285 (Petersburg); or 907- 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

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		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
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