



Advisory Announcement
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2026 WINTER DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERIES

The winter directed commercial fishery for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) will open in portions of the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts at 9:00 a.m., January 5, 2026. These areas will remain open until the fishery quotas are taken or until 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the start of the commercial halibut fishery, whichever occurs first. The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn.

Winter Directed DSR Commercial Fishery Harvest Guidelines

Groundfish Management Area	Harvest Remaining (round lb)
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict	36,850
Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict	36,850

The 2026 annual directed commercial DSR harvest limit for the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts is 55,000 round pounds in each management area [5 AAC 28.160 (c)(2)] with 36,850 pounds allocated to the winter fishery. The remainder of the harvest objective will be available for harvest in the fall portion of the fishery. The directed DSR fishery catches will be closely monitored, and fishers are advised that area closures may occur at short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard broadcast, National Weather Service broadcast, and the Groundfish Project's telephone hotline: 907-747-4882.

Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict Fisheries

Details regarding potential directed DSR commercial fishery openings in the Southeast Outside Subdistrict (SEO) will be announced by January 28, 2026.

DSR Trip Limits (5 AAC 28.171)

Directed DSR fishery trip limit regulations prohibit the take, possession, or delivery of DSR in excess of the trip limit amount. In the Southeast District east of 137° W long, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not take or possess on board the vessel or deliver more than 6,000 lb of DSR (whole or bled weight) in any five-day period [5 AAC 28.171(d)]. When a vessel or CFEC permit holder delivers a 6,000 lb DSR trip limit, the fisher must wait five days from the day of their last possession of fish aboard the vessel, take of fish, or delivery, before taking any additional fish. All DSR taken in excess of 6,000 lb by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket as a trip limit overage. All proceeds from the sale of DSR in excess of 6,000 lb shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.

Permit and Registration (5 AAC 28.106)

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) "Y" interim use permit is required for the directed DSR fishery and is issued specific to gear type. This card must be obtained before registering and fishing. Fishers are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed DSR fishery [5 AAC 28.106 (d)].

Logbooks (5 AAC 28.175)

The operator of a vessel fishing in the directed DSR fishery is required to maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations (5 AAC 28.175). A copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing. Logbooks for longline gear must include vessel and CFEC permit holder information, trip details (e.g., dates,

port, crew size, bait, gear specs), and set data such as gear deployment and retrieval times, start and end coordinates (latitude and longitude in degrees and decimal minutes), gear amounts, and depth. They must also include the number or weight of all retained and released target and bycatch species [5 AAC 28.175(b)(1)]. Logbooks for dinglebar troll gear, mechanical jigging machines, or hand troll gear must include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes, and nearest headland, the number of lines and total number of hooks used, the average depth fished, the hours fished, and the number of bycatch fish taken, by species, for each unique geographic location fished. For the target species, the number retained and the number discarded, is required [5 AAC 28.175(b)(2)]. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices.

Legal Gear (5 AAC 28.130)

In the Southeast District, DSR may be taken in the directed fishery by longline, hand troll, dinglebar troll, and mechanical jigging machines [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(3)(B)]. An operational unit of dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line with one or more leaders, lures, or hooks, fastened to a single troll wire, deployed and retrieved with a single power or hand troll gurdy, and pulled through the water while the vessel is moving. Only one operational unit may be onboard or deployed at a time. Weights, including dinglebars and cannon balls, must be disconnected from other troll wires on the vessel. Additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel [5 AAC 28.130(h)(1)]. No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel and no more than 30 hooks per line may be operated from a jigging machine. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion and may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)].

Vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter “D” and vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter “M” (5 AAC 28.135). A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying more than one of these letters at any time. A vessel may not display either letter while the vessel is being used to fish for salmon.

Closed Waters (5 AAC 28.150)

Demersal shelf rockfish may not be taken in a directed fishery in the following waters (Figure 1):

- (1) In the Ketchikan vicinity: all waters of Behm Canal, Clarence Strait, Tongass Narrows, Nichols Passage, George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Thorne Arm, Revillagigedo Channel, and all contiguous waters enclosed by the latitude of Bushy Point Light, a line from Point Alava to the southernmost tip of Ham Island, a line from Cedar Point to Dall Head, and a line from Dall Head to a point in midstream Clarence Strait at the latitude of Dall Head to Caamano Point.
- (2) In the vicinity of Craig and Klawock: all waters of Ulloa Channel north of the latitude of Waterfall Cannery, and all waters enclosed by a line from the southernmost tip of St. Philip Island to the northernmost tip of San Fernando Island, to Point Cangrejo.
- (3) In Glacier Bay National Park: 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, and the waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line running from 58°22.900' N lat, 136°25.300' W long, and 58°23.600' N lat, 136°24.600' W long.

Annette Islands Reserve

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 (Figure 1). Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances

CFEC permit holders directed fishing for DSR must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish caught including thornyhead rockfish. All 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 bycatch from state waters shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska [5 AAC 28.171(a)].

Bycatch of species that do not fall under full retention requirements and are caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit for a management area are required to be released at sea; bycatch retained in excess of the allowable bycatch limit shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Additional information on bycatch harvest and calculating bycatch allowances can be found at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.groundfish#harvest>.

A permit holder who is directed fishing for DSR in state waters of the Southeast District may legally retain, possess, and sell the following bycatch percentages in the table below, based on the round weight of all DSR on board.

GEAR TYPE	BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS (NSEI and SSEI)
LONGLINE AND JIG	Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate. Full retention is required for all rockfish, including thornyhead.
	Lingcod	<u>Longline fishery</u> : 35%; bycatch permitted until GHL taken <u>Jig fishery</u> : 0%
	Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery</u> : 35% <u>Jig fishery</u> : 20%
	Sablefish	0%, no retention
	Pacific cod	20%. Full retention required when directed Pacific cod fishery is open.
	Skates	Aggregated with “Other Groundfish”
	Other Groundfish	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 Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, 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).

Pacific cod possession and landing requirements [5 AAC 28.070 (e)]

The NSEI and SSEI directed Pacific cod season is open from January 1 through December 31 unless closed by emergency order at an earlier date; however, seasonal closures may occur during winter spawning aggregations to avoid overharvest of Pacific cod. The directed Pacific cod fishery in state waters on the outer coast is managed in conjunction with the federal fishery, which occurs in the EEZ (3–200 nm offshore).

When fishing in waters of NSEI and SSEI that are open to directed fishing for Pacific cod, a CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain all Pacific cod brought on board. Additionally, a Miscellaneous Finfish permit (M-card) holder may retain and sell all Pacific cod taken when fishing with the gear designated on that permit card.

When fishing in waters of NSEI and SSEI that are closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod, a CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain all Pacific cod up to the maximum retainable bycatch (20%); a CFEC permit holder fishing these areas may not sell Pacific cod that exceeds the allowable bycatch amount.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0226.

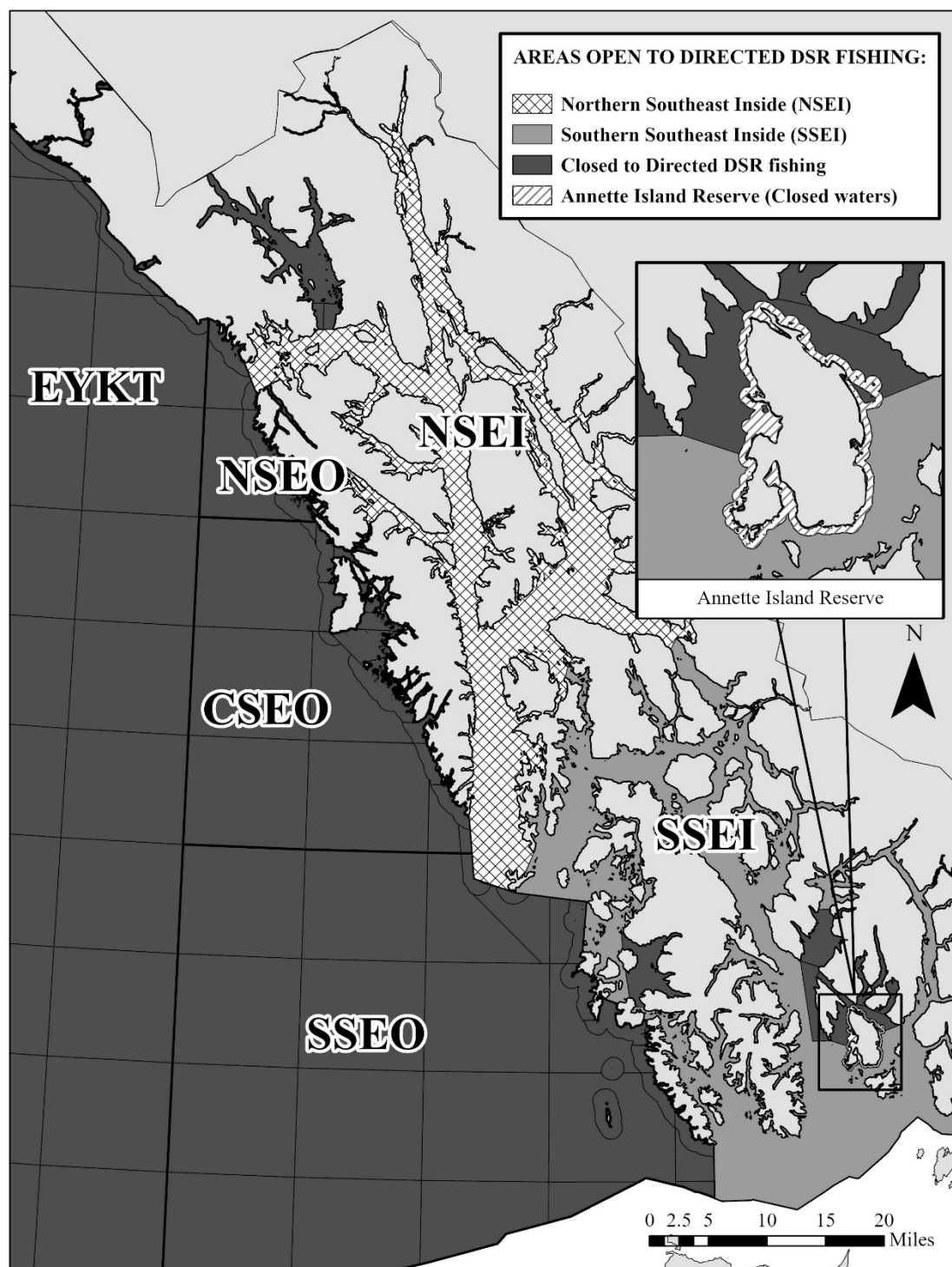


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska groundfish management areas open and closed to the 2026 winter directed demersal shelf rockfish fishery. This map is for general reference only, for descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.

Advisory Announcement web site: <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
Groundfish Hotline				747-4882			