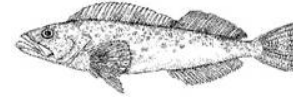


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: 06/28/2011
Time: 4:00 p.m.

FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL
LINGCOD SEASON OPENING
E.O. 2-GF-E-06-11

The directed commercial fishing season for lingcod *Ophiodon elongatus* in the Prince William Sound (PWS) Management Area will open July 1, 2011 and close by emergency order. Guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the Inside and Outside Districts, including adjacent federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters, are 7,300 pounds and 25,300 pounds respectively.

After closure of the directed season, lingcod may be retained as bycatch up to 20 percent of the directed harvest aboard a vessel. The 20 percent limit includes the total weight of all bycatch species aboard the vessel as described in regulation 5 AAC 28.070 (b), with the exception of Pacific cod which may be retained at a separate 20 percent bycatch level (5 AAC 28.267 (j)). After July 1, lingcod taken incidentally by drift gillnet gear operated for salmon consistent with applicable state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed.

To participate in the directed lingcod fishery, fishermen must possess a gear-appropriate Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission lingcod permit card and a PWS nonexclusive groundfish area registration. Groundfish registrations can be obtained at department offices in Anchorage, Homer, Soldotna, and Cordova or via Cordova office fax (907-424-3235).

To facilitate achievement of biological sampling objectives, emergency order #2-GF-E-06-11 requires lingcod be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact as evidence of gender. Retained lingcod must measure at least 35 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

Regulations close directed fishing for groundfish, including lingcod, within three nautical miles of two PWS area Steller sea lion rookeries, Seal Rocks and Wooded Island (Fish Island). For specific descriptions of these closure areas, contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780 or reference <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tab112.pdf>. These closures do not affect halibut fishing within these areas.

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