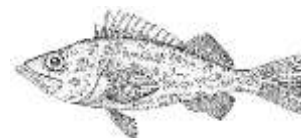

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: December 21, 2012
Time: 12:00 p.m.

2013 WINTER DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the 2013 directed commercial fishery for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) will open in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict and portions of the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict on Saturday, January 5, at 9:00 am. These areas will remain open until allocations 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. The 2013 annual directed commercial DSR harvest limit for each area is 55,125 round pounds (25 mt) with 37,485 pounds (17 mt) allocated to the winter fishery. The remainder of the harvest objective will be available for harvest in the fall portion of the fishery.

Harvest Guidelines for the Directed DSR Fishery

<u>Area</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Metric tons</u>
NSEI	37,485	17
SSEI	37,485	17

The department will announce details regarding the 2013 Southeast Outside Subdistrict (SEO) directed DSR fishery on January 25, 2013. If SEO fishery openings are announced, the fishing season will begin at 9:00 a.m. on January 30, 2013. The SEO Subdistrict includes all waters of East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections.

The following waters are closed to directed fishing for DSR:

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.

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.

In the vicinity of Cordova Bay: all waters of Tlevak Strait south of Tlevak Narrows, Sukkwan Strait, Hetta Inlet, Nutkwa Inlet, Klakas Inlet, Kaigani Strait, and the waters of Cordova Bay that are north of 54°40' N. latitude and west of 132° W. longitude. This area includes all waters within groundfish statistical areas 325501, 325502, and 325433.

In NSEI: the waters of Glacier Bay and the waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line running from 58°22.90' N. lat., 136°25.30' W. long. and 58°23.60' N. lat., 136°24.60' W. long.

General Provisions

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the winter directed DSR fishery. Logbooks are required and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket at the time of that landing. Fishermen are required to report on logbooks the latitude and longitude for start and end positions of each set, amount of gear (skates and hooks), depth of each set, and amount of catch per set by species. Logbooks are available at department area offices.

In the Southeast District, DSR may only be taken in the directed fishery by longline, hand troll, dinglebar troll, and mechanical jig gear. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) “Y” interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. In the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not sell more than 6,000 pounds (bled weight) of DSR in any five-day period. When fishing in the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts, full retention of all rockfish is required, excluding thornyhead. All rockfish taken in excess of trip or bycatch limits must be landed, weighed and reported on a department fish ticket. DSR taken in excess of the trip limit shall be forfeited to the State. If excess rockfish bycatch is sold, proceeds shall be surrendered to the State. The permit holder may retain excess rockfish bycatch (thornyheads excluded) for personal use but the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

Bycatch Provisions

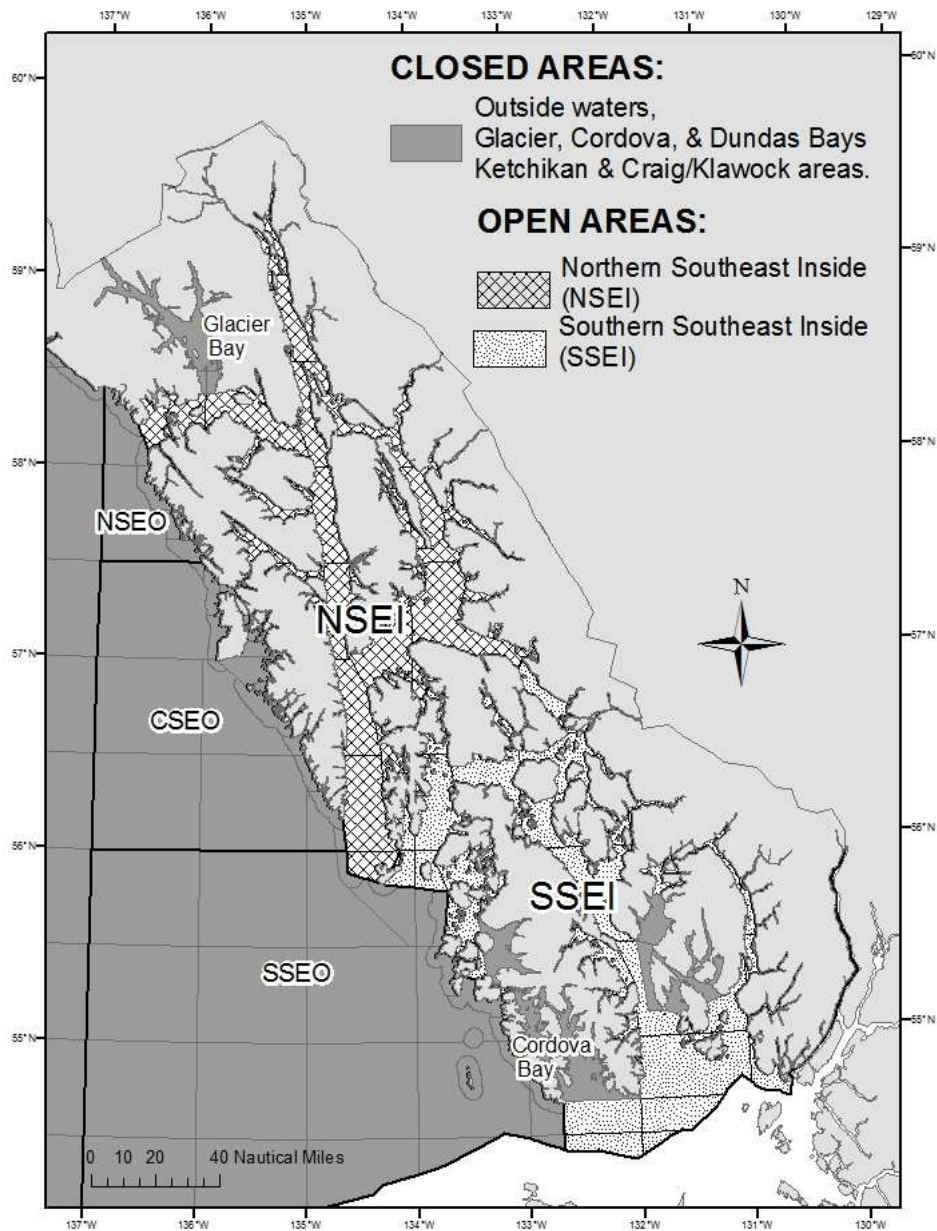
Bycatch provisions for DSR longline and jig (mechanical jiggling machines and dinglebar and hand troll gear) permits are listed in the following table. Bycatch allowances that may be retained and sold are based on the aggregate round weight of DSR onboard.

<u>Bycatch Species</u>	<u>Bycatch Allowance</u>
Lingcod*	Longline fishery- 35%. Jig fishery- 0%.
Shorthead and Roughey	7% in aggregate. Full retention required.
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention required.
Thornyhead and Other Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention required, excluding thornyhead.
Pacific cod	20%. Full retention required when directed Pacific cod season open.
Dogfish	Longline fishery- 35%. Jig fishery- 20%.
Sablefish	0%.
Other Groundfish	20%.

*minimum size limit- 27” from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5” from front of dorsal fin to tip of tail

Catch and effort will be closely monitored and area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced by news release and on the United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0113.



This map is for general reference only.

News releases 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	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220