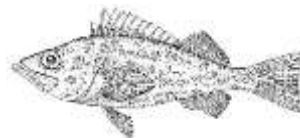

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: January 17, 2014
Time: 2:45 p.m.

2014 WINTER DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the 2014 Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict directed Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) commercial fishery. The seven species in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

The directed fishery will open in the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 24, 2014. This area will remain open until the harvest allocation is taken or 4:00 p.m., March 7, 2014, whichever occurs first. The directed fishery will remain closed in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections (see attached map). For information regarding the 2014 directed DSR fishery in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts, refer to the ADF&G news release issued on December 18, 2013.

The 2014 acceptable biological catch (ABC) for DSR in the SEO Subdistrict is 604,170 round lb. After deduction of the 2014 DSR subsistence harvest estimate (15,435 round lb), 5AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(A) allocates the DSR total allowable catch as follows: 84% (494,537 round lb) to commercial fisheries and 16% (94,198 round lb) to recreational fisheries. This commercial quota is then apportioned by management area based on the contribution of that area to the overall biomass. The quota remaining for the directed commercial fishery for DSR is set after deductions for DSR bycatch mortality in other fisheries are made. Areas are opened to directed fishing if there is sufficient resource to conduct an orderly fishery and if there are no area-specific conservation concerns. Based on the most recent stock assessment, CSEO and NSEO do not have sufficient quota to conduct an orderly directed fishery in 2014. A DSR survey was conducted in SSEO in 2013. Survey analyses completed this week indicate a significant decline in yelloweye rockfish populations in this area, which was last surveyed in 2005. The department has determined there is insufficient quota available for a directed fishery in SSEO and this area will remain closed for the 2014 season. EYKT will be surveyed in 2014.

Harvest Quotas for the Directed DSR Fishery

Area	Round lb
EYKT	70,355

General Provisions

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the winter directed DSR fishery. Vessels that previously registered to fish in NSEI or SSEI in 2014 must re-register if they plan to fish in the EYKT fishery. Logbooks are required and a copy of the logbook pages detailing the 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 (degrees and decimal minutes) 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 ADF&G area offices.

In the Southeast District, DSR may 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. Permit holders or vessels fishing in EYKT may not sell more than 12,000 pounds (bled weight) of DSR in any five-day period. Full retention of all DSR is required. All DSR taken in excess of trip limits by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be landed, weighed, and reported as overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. DSR trip limit overage is forfeited and all proceeds from the sale of excess DSR shall be surrendered to the state.

Vessels fishing for groundfish in federal waters must have a Federal Fisheries Permit. For information on federal permits contact NOAA Fisheries at 800-304-4846 or 907-586-7202. Vessels greater than 26 feet fishing for groundfish with longline gear must comply with seabird avoidance requirements specified in 50 C.F.R. 679.24. Fishermen are reminded that there are four federal Coral Habitat Protection areas on the Fairweather Grounds in EYKT that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear. Information on federal Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), including coral protection areas, may be found at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/71fr36694.pdf> (refer to Table 26 to Part 679). For questions regarding federal regulations or bycatch allowances, contact NOAA enforcement at 907-586-7225.

Bycatch Provisions

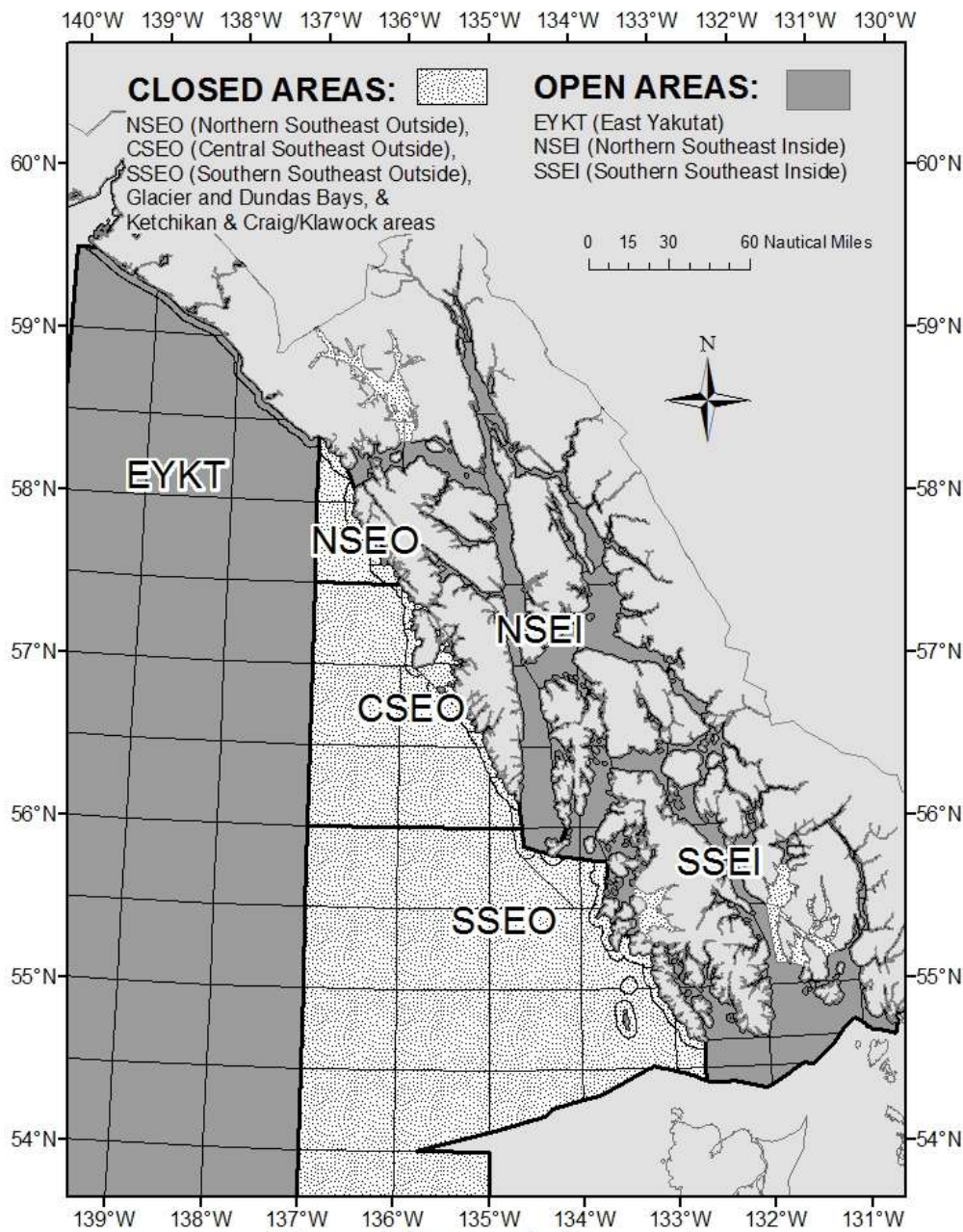
State waters (0-3 miles) bycatch provisions for DSR longline and jig permits are listed in the following table. All bycatch is calculated round weight, based on the round weight of the DSR sold. Bycatch allowances in state waters match federal waters allowances unless otherwise noted.

Bycatch Species	EYKT
Lingcod*	Longline fishery- 35%, until lingcod allocations are taken. Jig fishery- 0%.
Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish	7% in aggregate.
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention required for black rockfish.
Other Rockfish and Thornyhead	15% in aggregate.
Dusky, Widow, and Yellowtail Rockfish	Open to directed fishing in Federal waters only (LLP license and CFEC Misc. Finfish permit required).
Pacific cod	20%. Open to directed fishing with Misc. Finfish permit (LLP required for directed fishing in Federal waters).
Dogfish	Longline fishery- State waters- 35%. Jig fishery- State waters- 20%. **Federal waters- 20% in aggregate with "Other Species".
Sablefish	0%.
Other Groundfish	State waters- 20%. **Federal waters- see Table 10 for Retainable Percentages.

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

**view Federal Retainable Percentages (Table 10) at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tab110.pdf>

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. Closure updates will also be available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.



This map is for general reference only.
EYKT is open to directed fishing for DSR at 9:00 a.m. on Jan. 24, 2014.

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