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

Sam Cotten, Acting Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director

Contact:
Mike Vaughn

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6239

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835

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2015 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED PACIFIC COD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska directed Pacific cod fishery. The directed Pacific cod season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2015 unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

Legal Gear
Pacific cod may be taken in the directed Pacific cod fishery only by longline, dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, mechanical jig gear, and pots [5 AAC 28.130(d)(3)]. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for the directed Pacific cod fishery is the Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish permit (M card) and it is issued specific to a particular gear type.

Closed Waters (Figure 1)
In NSEI, 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 from 58°22.900′ N. lat., 136°25.300′ W. long. to 58°23.600′ N. lat., 136°24.600′ W. long. are closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod.

Guideline Harvest Range
The guideline harvest range for the taking of Pacific cod in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts combined is 750,000 – 1,250,000 pounds round weight [5 AAC 28.160 (f)].

The department will monitor the catch of Pacific cod by geographic area to prevent localized depletion and overharvest of spawning aggregations. The department will continue to manage this resource as it has in the past, closing specific areas as necessary to distribute effort and harvest throughout NSEI and SSEI. Management decisions will be based on a seasonal harvest period of July 1 through June 30 to avoid overharvest of Pacific cod during winter spawning aggregations.

The directed Pacific cod fishery in state waters on the outer coast is managed in conjunction with the federal fishery, which takes place in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (3–200 nm offshore). For information on the federal Pacific cod fishery, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division of NOAA Fisheries at 800-304-4846 (#3) or 907-586-7202 (#3).

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Pacific cod Fishery

A permit holder directed fishing for Pacific cod in the NSEI or SSEI Subdistrict may retain the following bycatch percentage based on the round weight of Pacific cod on board:

- with longline gear:
  - 35% lingcod [5 AAC 28.173 (b)] (until annual longline bycatch allocations are taken)
  - 10% demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) [5 AAC 28.171 (a)]
  - 20% silvergray rockfish
  - 20% shortraker, rougheye, and thornyheads in aggregate
  - 20% all other rockfish in aggregate
  - 35% spiny dogfish [5 AAC 28.174 (1)]
  - 0% sablefish
  - 20% other groundfish in aggregate
- with dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, or mechanical jigging machines:
  - 0% lingcod (NSEI and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW))
  - 20% lingcod [Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, May 16-Nov. 30, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear only, until annual jig bycatch allocations are taken]
  - 10% DSR [5 AAC 28.171 (a)]
  - 20% all other rockfish and thornyheads in aggregate
  - 20% spiny dogfish
  - 0% sablefish
  - 20% other groundfish in aggregate
- with pot gear:
  - 0% lingcod [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(1)]
  - 0% DSR [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(1)]
  - 0% all other rockfish and thornyheads [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(1)]
  - 20% spiny dogfish
  - 0% sablefish
  - 20% other groundfish in aggregate

A permit holder directed fishing for Pacific cod in the waters of Alaska in the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) or East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), or Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections may retain the following bycatch percentage based on the round weight of Pacific cod on board:

- with longline gear:
  - 35% lingcod [5 AAC 28.173 (b)] (until annual longline bycatch allocations are taken)
  - 10% DSR [5 AAC 28.171 (a)]
  - 5% black, blue, and dark rockfish in aggregate
  - 5% all other rockfish and thornyheads in aggregate
  - 35% spiny dogfish [5 AAC 28.174 (1)]
  - 0% sablefish
  - 20% other groundfish in aggregate
- with dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, or mechanical jigging machines:
  - 0% lingcod (IBS, EYKT, NSEO)
  - 20% lingcod, (CSEO, SSEOC; May 16-Nov. 30, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear only, until annual jig bycatch allocations are taken)
  - 10% DSR [5 AAC28.171 (a)]
  - 5% black, blue, and dark rockfish in aggregate
  - 5% all other rockfish and thornyheads in aggregate
  - 20% spiny dogfish
  - 0% sablefish
  - 20% other groundfish in aggregate

- with pot gear may retain the following:
    - 0% lingcod [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(1)]
    - 0% DSR [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(1)]
    - 0% all other rockfish and thornyheads [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(1)]
    - 20% spiny dogfish
    - 0% sablefish
    - 20% other groundfish in aggregate

General Provisions

Fishermen are reminded that when fishing in the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts, they are required to retain, weigh, and report on fish tickets all rockfish taken. Full retention is not required for thornyheads. Full retention and reporting of DSR and black rockfish from state waters (0-3 miles) on the outer coast of the Southeast District is required. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish. All proceeds from the sale of rockfish taken in excess of legal bycatch limits shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska [5 AAC 28.171]. A permit holder may retain excess full-retention rockfish bycatch for personal use; however the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

Logbooks are required for this fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket at the time of that landing. For each set, fishermen are required to report on logbooks the date, latitude and longitude (degrees and decimal minutes) for start and end positions of each set, hook spacing, amount of gear (skates and hooks), depth of each set, and estimated catch per set by species. Logbooks are available at ADF&G area offices.

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. Retention of lingcod will be prohibited when area allocations are taken.

Vessels operating as catcher-sellers and delivering Pacific cod on the grounds as bait shall complete a fish ticket documenting the sale at the time of each transaction. Fish tickets shall be assigned and attached to the appropriate logbook page(s) documenting the effort and harvest for that delivery. If the harvest documented on a logbook page involves multiple delivery transactions, the partial delivery box on each fish ticket shall be completed and fishermen shall list the pre-printed fish ticket numbers on the corresponding logbook page(s). A disposition code of "61" (sold for bait) and the appropriate delivery code shall be documented on each fish ticket.

Fishermen are advised that Pacific cod area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices 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 announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

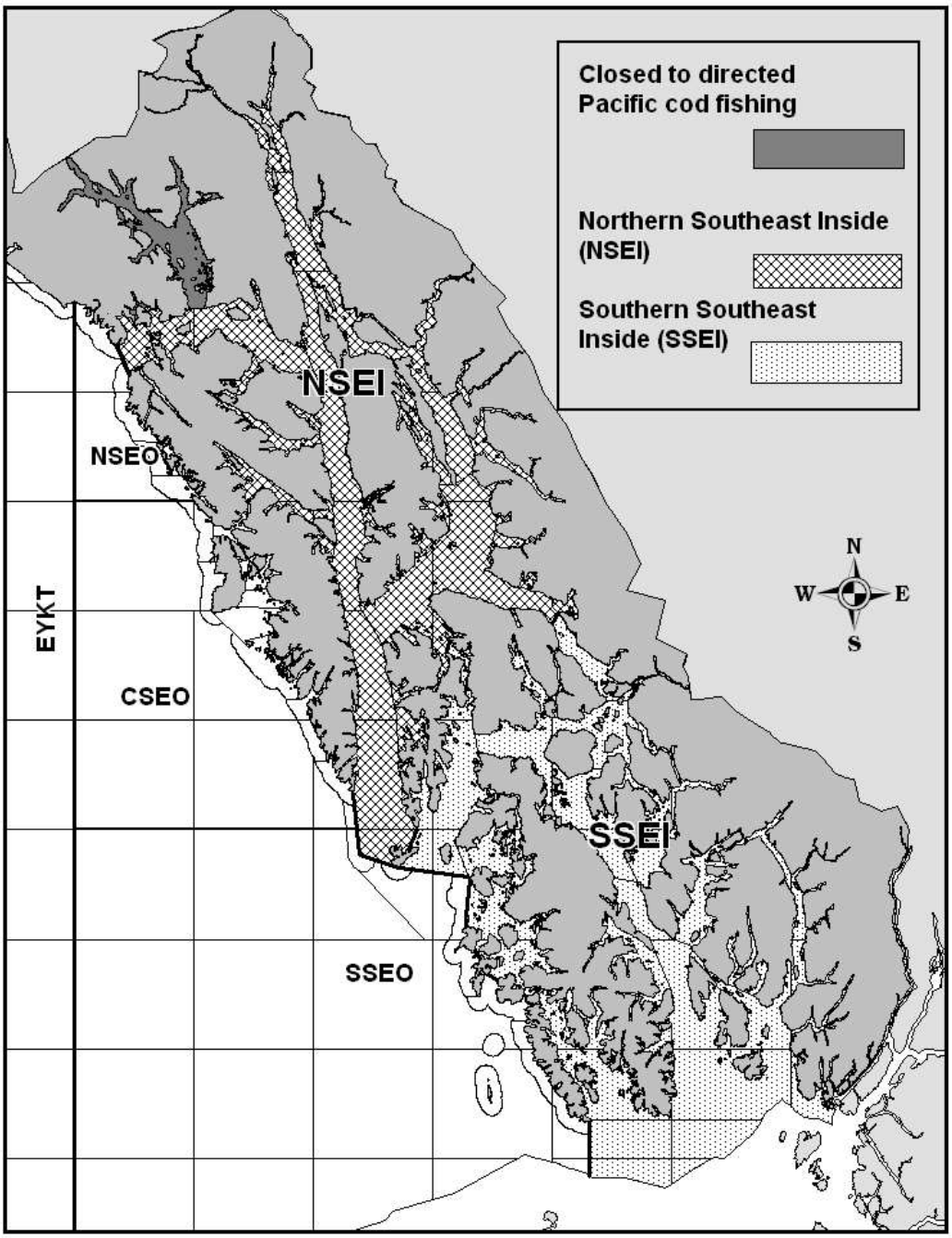

Figure 1. This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Management Area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105.

News releases web site: *http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main*.

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