
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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GROUNDFISH BYCATCH IN THE 2015 COMMERCIAL SALMON TROLL FISHERY

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding groundfish bycatch allowances in the commercial salmon troll fishery in state waters (internal waters and 0-3 nm) of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Commercial salmon trollers operating hand or power troll gear during an open commercial salmon fishing period may legally retain, possess, and sell incidentally taken groundfish in unlimited amounts, except where it is necessary to manage groundfish bycatch harvest within total catch limits. Bycatch allowances are summarized in the following table. The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be retained and sold and is based on the round weight of salmon on board.

Bycatch Provisions for the Salmon Troll Fishery in State Waters

Species	Bycatch Allowance
Lingcod	100% IBS, EYKT, CSEO, NSEI, and SSEIW* 30% SSEOC 5% NSEO
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%
Other rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest
Spiny dogfish	35%
Sablefish	0%
Other groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest

*Lingcod Management Areas - Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), East Yakutat Section (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside Section (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside Section (CSEO), Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector (SSEOC), Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI), Southern Southeast Internal Waters Sector (SSEIW) (Figure 1).

Lingcod and black, blue, and dark rockfish are state-managed species and the bycatch allowances for these species in federal waters [exclusive economic zone (EEZ)] are the same as those set for state waters. The DSR bycatch allowance is 10% in all state waters of the Southeast District and in those waters of the EEZ that are east of 140° W. long. The bycatch allowance for other rockfish in the EEZ is 5% in aggregate. In IBS federal waters, DSR are aggregated with other rockfish and limited to 5% bycatch. For information on bycatch limits for groundfish in federal waters, refer to the Gulf of Alaska Retainable Percentages Table at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tab110.pdf> or contact NOAA Fisheries Enforcement at (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg), or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

Vessels trolling for salmon in the EEZ in the Gulf of Alaska that retain groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. If the vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess a FFP: http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/cm/info_bulletins/bulletin.aspx?bulletin_id=3571. For information on FFPs contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7202 or 800-304-4846. An FFP is not required for vessels retaining groundfish bycatch in state waters or for lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish taken in the EEZ, as these species are exempt from federal permit requirements.

The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, canary, quillback, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish. Bycatch in excess of allowable limits shall be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket as bycatch overage. Proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska. DSR overage taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce. All lingcod bycatch overage shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.

2014 Lingcod Allocations for the Salmon Troll Fishery

Lingcod Management Area	Allocation (round pounds)
Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)	8,000
East Yakutat (EYKT)	16,000
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)	3,200
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)	16,800
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC)	3,340
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI)	6,400
Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW)	2,080

Lingcod Restrictions

The retention of lingcod bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery is **open May 16- November 30 or until area-specific lingcod bycatch allocations are harvested**. All lingcod retained must measure at least 27" from tip of snout to tip of the tail or 20.5" from front of dorsal fin to tip of the tail. Lingcod management areas will be closed to lingcod retention when an area troll allocation is taken. Vessels with lingcod bycatch on board may not fish in an area closed to troll lingcod retention until those lingcod have been offloaded from the vessel.

Closed Waters

Salmon trollers may not retain lingcod in the waters of Sitka Sound, described in 5AAC 28.150 (a), that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50' N. lat., 135°45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05' N. lat., 135°43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58' N. lat., 135°41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57°22.28' N. lat., 135°40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38' N. lat., 135°49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56°51.92' N. lat., 135°30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.75' W. long. to Baranof Island at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.60' W. long.

Groundfish may not be taken in the waters off Cape Edgecumbe (Edgecumbe Pinnacles Marine Reserve) enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.50' N. lat., 56°57.00' N. lat., 135°54.00' W. long., and 135°57.00' W. long.

Lingcod bycatch in the troll fishery will be closely monitored and fishermen are advised that area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced on the United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report and the National Weather Service broadcast, as well as by ADF&G news release. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at (907) 747-4882.

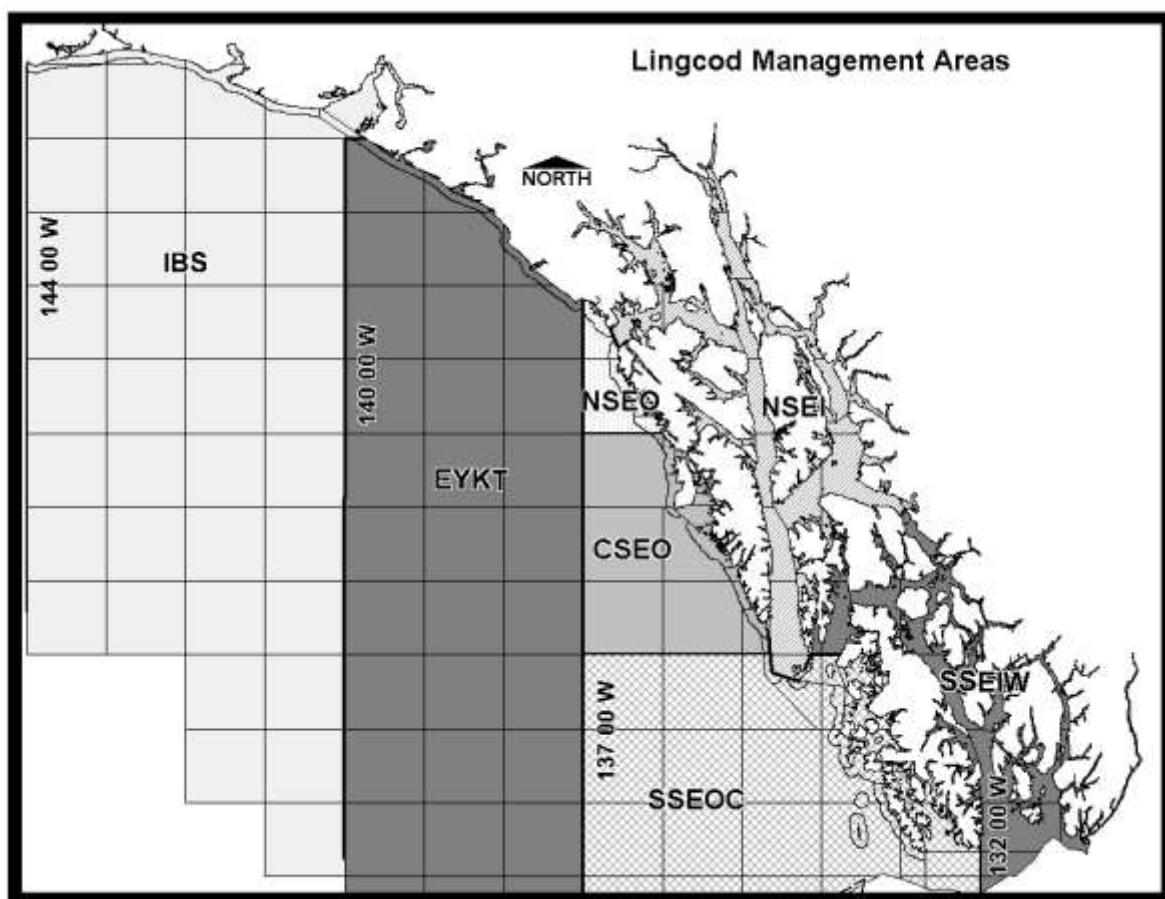


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Areas.

This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod 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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