

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula – Eastern District 2015 Black Rockfish Guideline Harvest Levels and Dark Rockfish Bycatch Limits**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has established guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the 2015 commercial black rockfish seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Eastern District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area as follows:

<b><u>AREA</u></b>	<b><u>GHL (whole fish pounds)</u></b>
<b>Kodiak Area (Total)</b>	<b>125,000</b>
Afognak District	35,000
Northeast District	20,000
Eastside District	30,000
Southeast District	30,000
Westside District	10,000
Southwest District	bycatch only
Mainland District	bycatch only
<b>Chignik Area</b>	<b>100,000</b>
No more than 45,000 pounds may be taken from a district	
<b>South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District</b>	<b>75,000</b>

The Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Area – Eastern District black rockfish fisheries opened at 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2015. The fisheries will close by emergency order when GHLs are attained or December 31, 2015 if GHLs are not achieved.

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Participants are reminded that a 2015 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for miscellaneous finfish and an ADF&G black rockfish vessel registration are required before participating in the fishery.

**Kodiak Area:**

**DIRECTED FISHERY:** Mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish. Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are limited to operating no more than five lines with 30 hooks per line. Vessel operators may not have more than 500 hooks in aggregate onboard a vessel at any time. A nonexclusive black rockfish district vessel registration is required prior to fishing. Vessel operators may change black rockfish district registration in person at the ADF&G office in Kodiak. Vessel operators may not simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and parallel or state-waters Pacific cod seasons.

During the directed fishery, jig gear catcher vessels may not have onboard or sell more than 5,000 pounds (whole fish weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive five-day period. Black rockfish in excess of 5,000 pounds must be weighed, sold, and reported on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska. Jig gear catcher-processor vessels may not have onboard or sell more than 5,000 pounds (whole fish weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive five-day period and may not exceed 10,000 pounds sold or onboard within a ten-day period. All black rockfish taken in excess of the time-period harvest limit must be weighed, sold, and reported on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska. Logbooks are required for all jig gear vessels during the directed fishery and must be submitted to ADF&G after each delivery.

**BYCATCH:** Vessels using jig gear may retain black rockfish up to 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel unless modified by emergency order. Non-jig gear vessels may retain black rockfish up to five percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard. Black rockfish registration and logbooks are not required for black rockfish retained as allowable bycatch.

**Chignik Area:** Mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish. Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are limited to operating no more than five lines with 30 hooks per line. Vessel operators must obtain a superexclusive black rockfish vessel registration prior to participating in the directed fishery. Vessels registered for the Chignik Area black rockfish fishery may not participate in any other directed black rockfish fishery in the State of Alaska during the same calendar year. Similarly, vessels registered in a directed black rockfish fishery outside of the Chignik Area may not participate in the Chignik Area directed black rockfish fishery during the same calendar year.

Chignik Area vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery, including the parallel and state-waters Pacific cod fisheries.

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During 2015, no more than 45,000 pounds may be taken from any one district within the Chignik Area.

**South Alaska Peninsula Area – Eastern District:** Mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish. Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are limited to operating no more than five lines with 30 hooks per line. Vessel operators must obtain a nonexclusive black rockfish vessel registration prior to participating in the directed fishery. South Alaska Peninsula Area vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery, including the parallel and state-waters Pacific cod seasons. The 2015 black rockfish fishery will be managed on a district wide GHL of 75,000 pounds.

### **Dark Rockfish**

There are no directed fisheries for dark rockfish in the Kodiak, Chignik, or South Alaska Peninsula areas. In the Kodiak Area, dark rockfish may be retained as bycatch up to five percent by weight of the targeted groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel, except vessels using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 20 percent by weight of the targeted groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel. In the Chignik Area and the South Alaska Peninsula Area – Eastern District, bycatch of dark rockfish may not exceed 20 percent by weight of the directed groundfish species and directed halibut onboard a vessel.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at 486-1840.

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