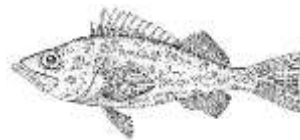

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: October 31, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.

2016 FALL DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the 2016 fall directed commercial fishery for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) will open in portions of the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. These areas will remain open until allocations are taken or until 4:00 p.m., December 31, whichever occurs first. Catch and effort will be closely monitored and area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and National Weather Service broadcast. Area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at (907) 747-4882.

The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, china, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

Harvest Guidelines for the Directed DSR Fishery

Area	Round lb
NSEI	50,663
SSEI	37,081

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 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 running from 58°22.900' N. lat., 136°25.300' W. long., and 58°23.600' N. lat., 136°24.600' W. long.

General Provisions

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with ADF&G prior to participating in the fall 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 ADF&G area offices.

In the Southeast District, DSR may be taken in the directed fishery by longline, hand troll, dinglebar troll, and mechanical jigging machines. 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 an ADF&G fish ticket. DSR taken in excess of the trip limit shall be forfeited to the State. If excess rockfish bycatch is sold, proceeds from the sale shall be surrendered to the State. The permit holder may retain excess rockfish bycatch for personal use in accordance with 5 AAC 39.010; the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

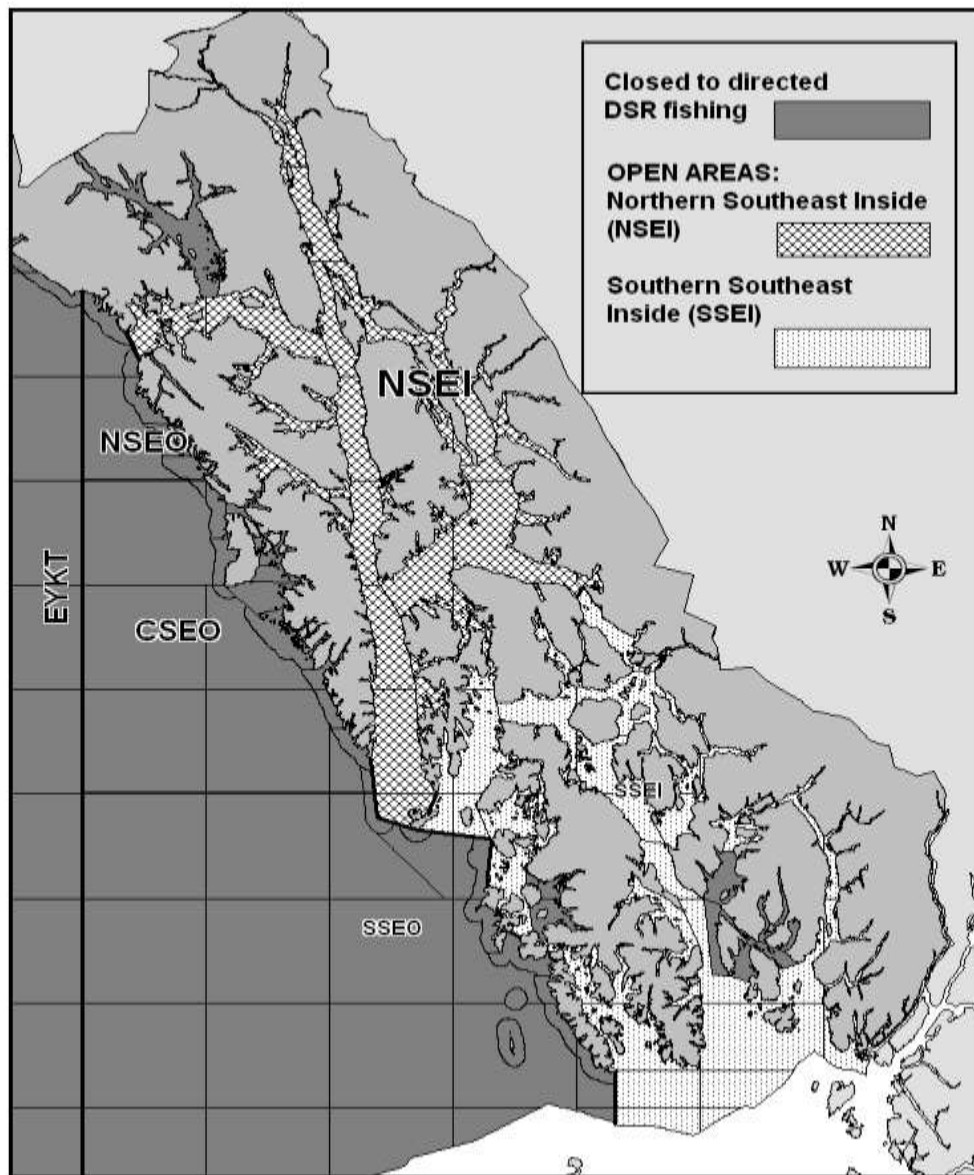
Bycatch Provisions

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

Bycatch Species	Bycatch Allowance
Lingcod	Longline fishery- 35% in NSEI and SSEI. Jig fishery- 20% in SSEOC. Jig bycatch closes November 30.* Jig fishery- 0% in NSEI and SSEIW.
Shortraker and Rougheye	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%.

*Note: Lingcod bycatch is open in DSR fisheries utilizing mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear in the portion of SSEI that overlaps with the Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector lingcod management area. SSEOC includes those waters of SSEI that are south of the latitude of 56°00.000' N. lat. and west of Prince of Wales Island or south of 54°43.000' N. lat. and west of 132°00.000' W. long. Lingcod bycatch will be open to DSR jig permit holders fishing in groundfish statistical areas 345535, 335533, 335534, 325501, 325502, 325433, 325431, 325401, and portions of 335535 and 335506.

The minimum size limit for lingcod is 27" from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" from front of dorsal fin to tip of tail. Lingcod allocations are managed by area and area closures will occur as allocations are taken.



This map is for general reference only. For 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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<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220