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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office  
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Time: 9:30 a.m.

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#### **2017 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the directed lingcod fishery will open in outside waters of the Southeast District, east of 144° W. long., at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Lingcod management areas will remain open to directed lingcod fishing until harvest allocations are taken or 11:59 p.m., November 30, 2017, whichever occurs first.

#### **Directed Lingcod Fishery Allocations (round pounds):**

Lingcod Management Area	Allocation
Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)	46,000
East Yakutat (EYKT) Section	111,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector	50,100
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict	0
Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector	0

#### **Lingcod Size Limits**

All lingcod retained must measure at least 27" in length from the tip of snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5" from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of tail.

#### **Legal Gear**

Lingcod may be taken in a directed lingcod fishery only by mechanical jigging machines, dinglebar troll gear, and hand troll gear. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) "T" interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. Vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter "D" and vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter "M" (5 AAC 28.135). A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying more than one of these letters at any time. A vessel may not display either letter while the vessel is being used to fish for salmon.

In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line that is set and retrieved with a troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with one or more lures or baited hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is making way [5 AAC 28.130 (h)]. Only one troll gurdy line may be deployed in the water at any time.

A mechanical jigging machine is a device that deploys a single line with lures or baited hooks and retrieves that line with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance. No more than five mechanical jigging machines, with no more than 30 hooks per line may be operated from a vessel. A mechanical jigging machine allows a line to be fished only in the water column, in a manner that the hooks connected to the line are fished above the seafloor; a mechanical jigging machine line may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel. In addition, a mechanical jigging machine line may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion.

### **Closed Waters**

#### **Directed fishing for lingcod is prohibited in the following areas:**

Sitka Sound- the waters of CSEO 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°43.00' 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. [5 AAC 28.150(a)].

Edgecumbe Pinnacle Marine Reserve- the waters off Cape Edgecumbe 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. [5 AAC 28.150(b)].

Gulf of Alaska Coral Protection Areas- there is one HAPC (Habitat Areas of Particular Concern) near Cape Ommaney and four HAPCs on the Fairweather Grounds that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear, including dinglebar troll gear. Locations of the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679 at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tabl26.pdf>. For additional information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

### **Federal Fisheries Permits**

A vessel must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) if the vessel is used to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska and is required to retain groundfish caught in the EEZ. Full retention of demersal shelf rockfish is required in EEZ waters east of 140° W. long. If a vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess an FFP:

<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/node/20055>.

FFPs are not required for vessels fishing lingcod in state waters. For information on FFPs contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202, 800-304-4846, or download an application at:

<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/ffpapp.pdf>.

### **Vessel Registration**

The vessel owner or the owner's agent must register the vessel with ADF&G prior to participating in a directed lingcod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. The Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) is a super exclusive registration area for the directed commercial lingcod fishery. A CFEC permit holder who participates in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the IBS may not participate or have participated in the directed commercial taking of lingcod as a CFEC permit holder in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year. A vessel used in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the IBS may not be used or have been used in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year.

### **Logbooks**

ADF&G logbooks are required for the directed lingcod fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the associated fish ticket at the time of the landing. Logbook requirements (5 AAC 28.175) for the lingcod fishery include date, **specific location of harvest by latitude and**

**longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes** and nearest headland, number of lines and total number of hooks used, average depth fished, hours fished, number of lingcod retained and discarded, lingcod sex ratio, number of bycatch fish taken, by species, for each unique geographic location fished and the tag number, date and location of capture of any tagged fish landed. Logbooks and confidential envelopes used for submitting those logbooks may be obtained at ADF&G area offices.

**Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Lingcod Fishery:** The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be sold and is based on the round weight of lingcod on board.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Bycatch Allowance</b>
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10% EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC; IBS state waters (0-3 nm).
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate.
Other Rockfish and Thornyheads	5% in aggregate (includes DSR in IBS federal waters 3-200 nm).
Pacific cod	20%.
Spiny dogfish	20%.
Skates	5% in aggregate.
Sablefish	0%.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.

### **Rockfish Possession and Landing Requirements**

Full retention of DSR is required for CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish in all state waters (0-3 nm) and in federal waters (3-200 nm) of the Southeast Outside Subdistrict, east of 140° W. long. In federal waters west of 140° W. long. (IBS), DSR are restricted to a bycatch allowance of 5%, aggregated with other rockfish. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, tiger, copper, China, and rosethorn rockfish. Full retention of black rockfish is also required in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area for permit holders fishing for groundfish.

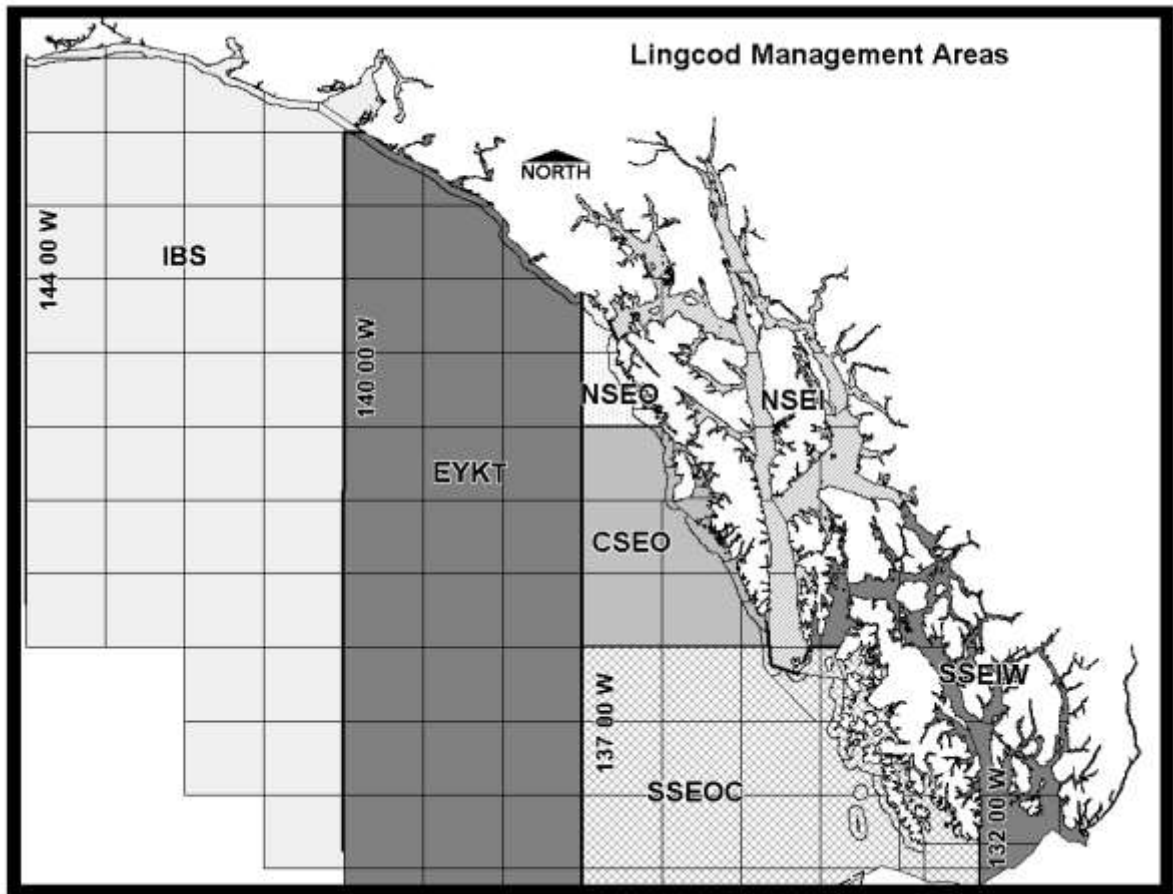
Full retention regulations require permit holders to retain, weigh, and report on an ADF&G fish ticket all DSR and black rockfish taken. In waters where full retention regulations are in effect, all DSR and black rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported on a fish ticket as bycatch overage. All proceeds from the sale of excess black rockfish bycatch and excess DSR taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish from state waters, retained due to full retention requirements, may be kept for a person's own use. DSR overage taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce.

### **Area Closures**

Catch and effort will be closely monitored and fishermen should expect area closures on short notice. Lingcod closures will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
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



**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**