

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA LINGCOD SEASON OPENS

EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-07-17

The directed commercial fishing season for lingcod *Ophiodon elongatus* in the Prince William Sound (PWS) Management Area **will open July 1**, and will close December 31 or earlier by emergency order. Guideline harvest levels (GHL) are 7,300 pounds for the Inside District and 25,300 pounds for the Outside District, including adjacent federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters.

To help meet biological sampling objectives, Emergency Order (EO) 2-GF-E-07-17 requires **lingcod be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact** as evidence of gender. Retained lingcod must measure at least **35 inches** from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

To participate in the directed lingcod fishery, fishermen must possess a 2017 gear-appropriate Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission lingcod permit card and a 2017 PWS Directed Lingcod Area Registration. Groundfish registrations can be obtained at department offices in Anchorage, Homer, and Cordova. ADF&G management authority for lingcod extends into federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Fishermen targeting lingcod in the EEZ require a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP), and application forms are available at National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) offices and online at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/ffpapp.pdf>.

Steller Sea Lion rookery closures: Directed fishing for all groundfish species (including lingcod) is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS, Seal Rocks and Wooded Island (Fish Island). For specific descriptions and regulatory language reference <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab112.pdf> or contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780.

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Bycatch limits: Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for the PWS directed lingcod fishery are set as follows by Emergency Order 2-GF-E-01-17 as round weight of bycatch as a percentage of the round weight of the target species:

- (1) may retain 20 percent Pacific cod [5 AAC 28.267(i)];
- (2) may retain 5 percent skate species in aggregate;
- (3) may retain 15 percent shark species in aggregate (includes spiny dogfish);
- (4) may retain 20 percent pollock;
- (5) must retain all rockfish (and thornyhead) as required by 5 AAC 28.265 and any rockfish in excess of 10 percent in aggregate must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket;
 - (A) no rockfish landing or combination of landings may exceed the 5-day trip limit of 3,000 pounds;
- (6) may retain 20 percent other groundfish in aggregate;

After July 1, lingcod may be retained as bycatch up to 20 percent of the directed harvest aboard a vessel, including lingcod taken incidentally by drift gillnet gear operated for salmon.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

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