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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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#### 2018 WINTER DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the 2018 winter 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 Friday, January 5, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. These areas will remain open until allocations are taken or until 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the start of the commercial halibut fishery, whichever occurs first. The 2018 annual directed commercial DSR harvest limit for each area is 55,125 round pounds with 37,485 pounds allocated to the winter fishery. The remainder of the harvest objective will be available for harvest in the fall portion of the fishery. The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn.

#### Harvest Guidelines for the Winter Directed DSR Fishery

Area	Round lb
NSEI	37,485
SSEI	37,485

The department completed a stock assessment survey for DSR in the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section during May 2017. Results of the assessment indicated a 39% decrease in the density of yelloweye (YE/km<sup>2</sup>) from the previous survey (2015); consequently, no directed fishery will be prosecuted in this area in 2018. Data from the 2016 Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section stock assessment survey confirms that this area continues to have a low density of yelloweye (YE/km<sup>2</sup>) and does not support prosecuting a directed fishery. The Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section will also remain closed to directed fishing in 2018; this area, last surveyed in 2013, is scheduled to be surveyed again in May 2018. Details regarding any potential directed fishery opening in the Central Southeast Outside Section (CSEO) will be announced on January 26, 2018. If a fishery opening is announced, the fishing season will begin at 9:00 a.m. on January 31, 2018.

#### The following waters are closed to directed fishing for DSR [5 AAC 28.150 (d)]:

**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., to 58°23.600' N. lat., 136°24.600' W. long. For additional information contact the Glacier Bay National Park Service at 907-697-2230.

**General Provisions**

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with ADF&G prior to participating in the winter 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 shall be surrendered to the State. The permit holder may retain excess rockfish bycatch (thornyheads excluded) 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 troll, 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.

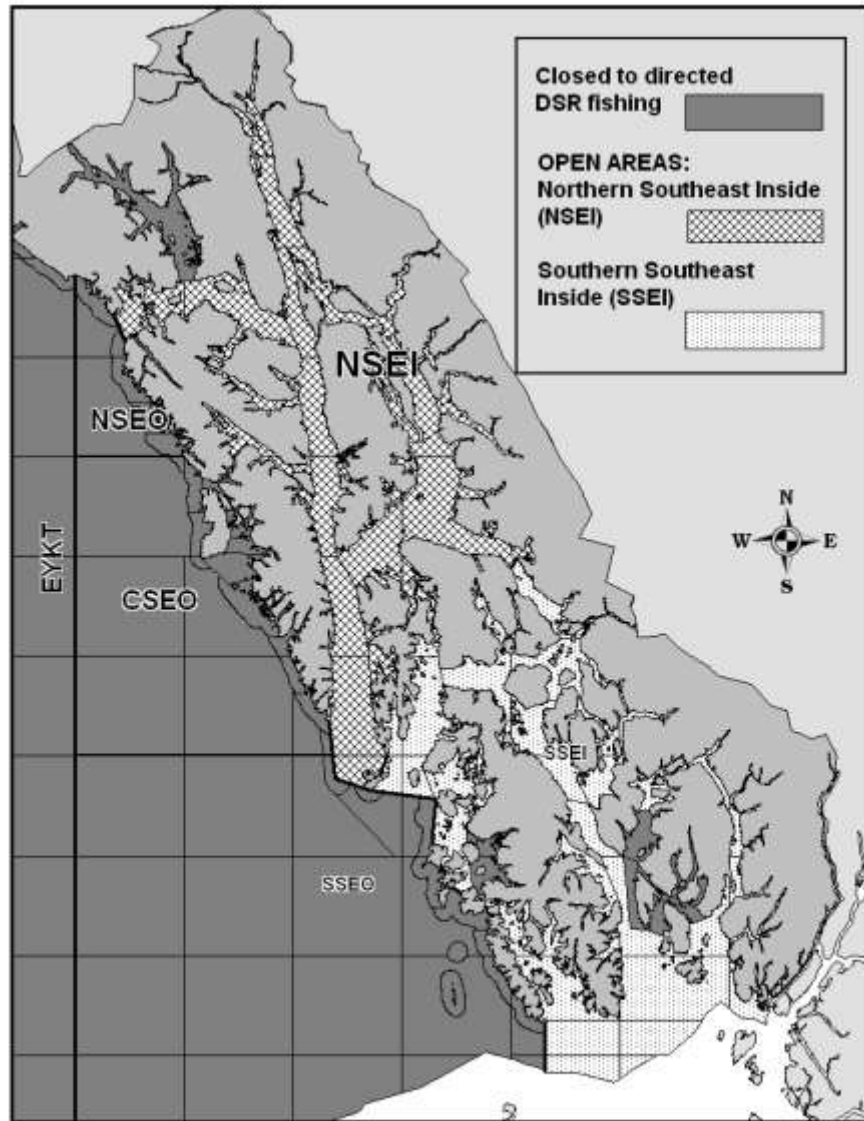
<b>Bycatch Species</b>	<b>Bycatch Allowance</b>
Lingcod <sup>1</sup>	Longline fishery- 35%, until lingcod area allocations are taken. Jig fishery- 0%.
Shortraker and Rougheye	7% in aggregate. Full retention required.
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention required.
Thornyhead and Other Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention required, excluding thornyhead.
Pacific cod <sup>2</sup>	20%. Full retention required where directed Pacific cod open.
Dogfish	Longline fishery- 35%. Jig fishery- 20%.
Sablefish	0%.
Other Groundfish <sup>3</sup>	20%. Must retain pollock up to maximum bycatch allowance.

<sup>1</sup>minimum size limit- 27” from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5” from front of dorsal fin to tip of tail.

<sup>2</sup>A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain all Pacific cod caught when the directed fishery for Pacific cod is open [5 AAC 28.070 (e)(1)].

<sup>2,3</sup>A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain the maximum retainable bycatch of pollock (20%) and Pacific cod (20%) when the directed fishery for pollock or Pacific cod is closed [5 AAC 28.070 (e) (1) and (2)]. Note: There is not a directed pollock fishery in NSEI or SSEI therefore the directed pollock fishery is closed.

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 the National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.



**This map is for general reference only. For descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.**

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
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AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220