

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula–Eastern District
2018 Black Rockfish Guideline Harvest Levels and Dark Rockfish Bycatch Limits**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has established guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for the 2018 commercial black rockfish seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula (Eastern District) areas as follows:

Area	GHL (pounds)
Kodiak Area (Total)	120,000
Afognak District	30,000
Northeast District	20,000
Eastside District	30,000
Southeast District	30,000
Westside District	10,000
Southwest District	bycatch only
Mainland District	bycatch only
Chignik Area	100,000
No more than 45,000 pounds may be taken from a district	
South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District	75,000

The Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District black rockfish fisheries open January 1, 2018. Fisheries will close by emergency order when GHLs are achieved or December 31, 2018 if GHLs are not achieved.

A 2018 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.

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.

Logbooks are required for all jig gear vessels during the directed fishery and must be submitted to ADF&G after each delivery.

Kodiak Area:

DIRECTED FISHERY: A nonexclusive black rockfish area registration and district vessel registration is required prior to fishing. Vessel operators may not simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and parallel or state-waters Pacific cod seasons.

In addition to the cap of 150 hooks deployed (30 hooks on five lines), vessel operators may not have more than 500 hooks in aggregate onboard a vessel.

During the directed black rockfish 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. 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.

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 5 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:

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.

The 2018 black rockfish fishery will be managed with a GHL of 100,000 pounds; however, no more than 45,000 pounds may be taken from any one district within the Chignik Area.

South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District:

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 2018 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, non-jig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to five percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel and jig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel.

In the Chignik Area and the South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District, bycatch of dark rockfish by any gear type may not exceed 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or target halibut onboard a vessel.

For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at 486-1840.

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