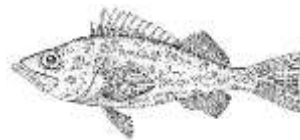

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Mike Vaughn

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6239

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: January 26, 2018
Time: 1:45 p.m.

2018 WINTER DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the 2018 Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict directed Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) commercial fishery. The seven species in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

The directed fishery will open in the Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018. This area will remain open until the harvest allocation is taken or 4:00 p.m., March 23, 2018, whichever occurs first. The directed fishery will remain closed in the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections (see attached map). For information regarding the 2018 directed DSR fishery in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts, refer to the ADF&G news release issued on December 12, 2017.

Harvest Quota for the Directed DSR Fishery	
Area	Round lb
CSEO	121,356

The 2018 acceptable biological catch (ABC) for DSR in the SEO Subdistrict is 551,155 round lb. After deduction of the 2018 DSR subsistence harvest estimate (15,432 round lb), 5 AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(A) allocates the DSR total allowable catch as follows: 84% (450,007 round lb) to commercial fisheries and 16% (85,716 round lb) to recreational fisheries. This commercial quota is then apportioned by management area based on the contribution of that area to the overall biomass. The quota remaining for the directed commercial DSR fishery is set after deductions for DSR bycatch mortality in other fisheries are made. Areas are opened to directed fishing if there is sufficient resource to conduct an orderly fishery and if there are no area-specific conservation concerns.

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/km²) 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/km²) 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.

Closed Waters in CSEO

Directed fishing for DSR 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 Area- there is one HAPC (Habitat Areas of Particular Concern) near Cape Ommaney that is closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear, including longline and dinglebar troll gear. Locations of the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679 at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>. For additional information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

Bycatch Provisions for State Waters

Bycatch provisions for CSEO DSR permits are listed in the following table. All bycatch is calculated round weight, based on the round weight of the DSR sold. Bycatch allowances in federal waters match state waters allowances unless otherwise noted.

BYCATCH SPECIES	CSEO BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Lingcod ¹	35% longline gear; 0% jig gear.
Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish	7% in aggregate.
Black, Blue and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention required for black rockfish.
Other Rockfish and Thornyheads	15% in aggregate.
Pacific cod	20%. Full retention when directed Pacific cod fishery is open.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Spiny Dogfish	35% longline gear; 20% jig gear. Federal waters- see Table 10 ² .
Skates	5%.
Other Groundfish	20%. Federal waters- see Table 10 ² .

¹minimum size limit- 27" from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" from front of dorsal fin to tip of tail.

²Table 10 federal retainable bycatch percentages: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs> or contact NOAA enforcement at 907-586-7225.

General Provisions

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the winter directed DSR fishery. Vessels that previously registered to fish in NSEI or SSEI in 2018 must re-register if they plan to fish in the CSEO fishery. Logbooks are required and a copy of the logbook pages detailing the 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 (degrees and decimal minutes) 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 jig gear. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) "Y" interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. Permit holders or vessels fishing in CSEO, NSEI, or SSEI may not sell more than 6,000 pounds of DSR in any five-day period. Full retention and reporting of all DSR is required. All DSR taken in excess of trip limits by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be landed, weighed, and reported as overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. DSR trip limit overage is forfeited and all proceeds from the sale of excess DSR shall be surrendered to the state.

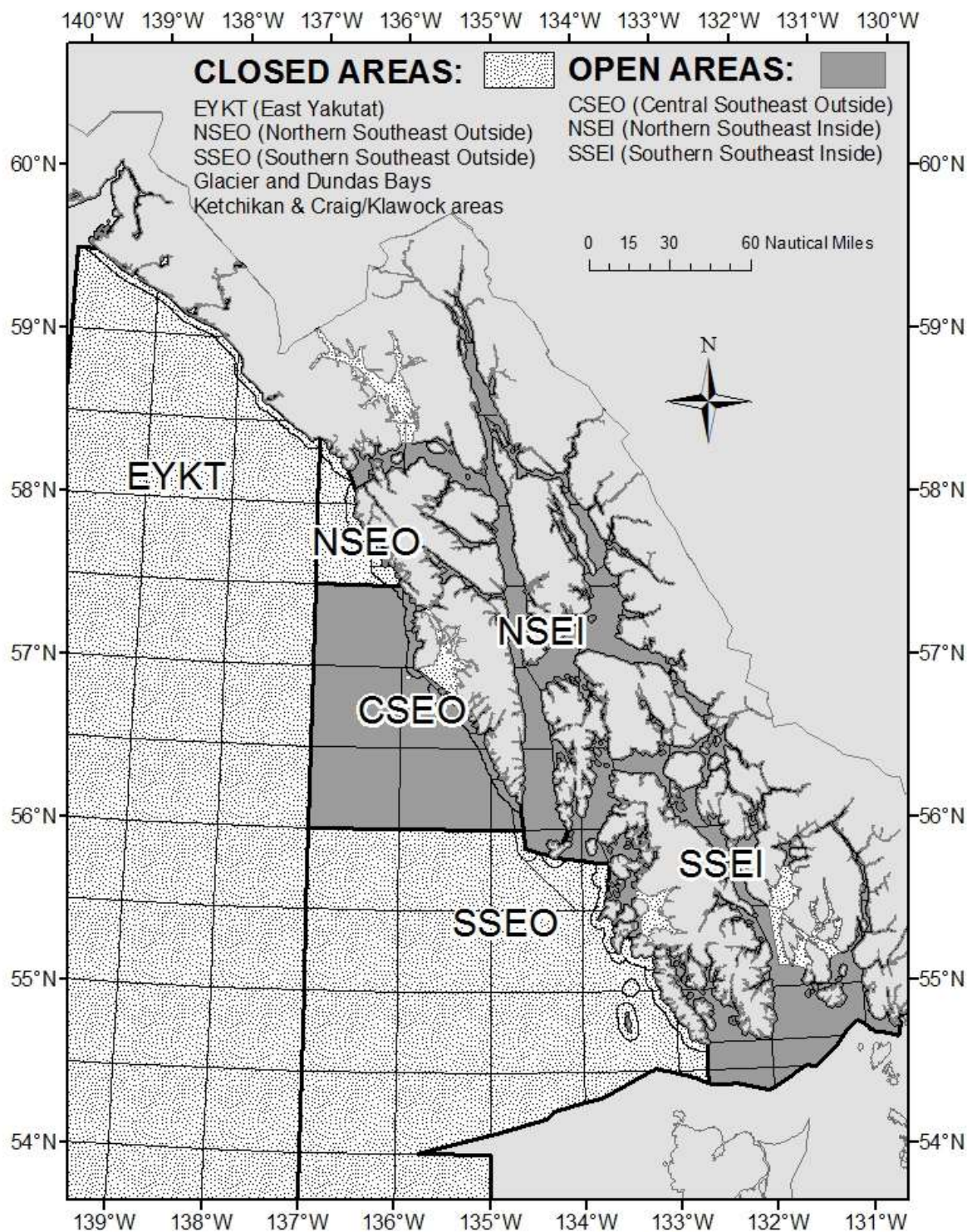
Vessels fishing for groundfish in federal waters must have a Federal Fisheries Permit. For information on federal permits contact NOAA Fisheries at 800-304-4846 or 907-586-7202. Vessels greater than 26 feet fishing for groundfish with longline gear must comply with seabird avoidance requirements specified in 50 C.F.R. 679.24.

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. Closure updates will also be available on the Groundfish Telephone Hotline at 907-747-4882.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0318.

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>
<i>ADF&G</i>	<i>225-5195</i>	<i>772-3801</i>	<i>874-3822</i>	<i>747-6688</i>	<i>465-4250</i>	<i>766-2830</i>	<i>784-3255</i>
<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>	<i>766-2533</i>	<i>784-3220</i>



This map is for general reference only.
CSEO is open for directed fishing for DSR at 9:00 a.m. January 31, 2018