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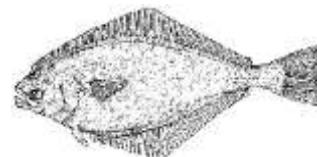
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Sitka Area Office  
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Sitka, AK 99835  
Date: March 9, 2018  
Time: 11:15 a.m.

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#### **2018 GROUND FISH BYCATCH REGULATIONS FOR STATE WATERS AND STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH TAKEN IN THE COMMERCIAL HALIBUT FISHERY IN THE EASTERN GULF OF ALASKA**

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning regulations that apply during the 2018 Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) commercial halibut fishery. This news release details bycatch regulations and allowances for state waters of the Southeast District and for state-managed species taken in federal waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (EGOA) Area, east of 144° W. longitude. The IFQ halibut fishery opens at 12:00 noon, March 24, and closes at 12:00 noon, November 7, 2018.

#### **Rockfish Possession and Landing Requirements (5 AAC 28.171)**

In the Southeast District, a vessel or Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) taken. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish.

In the EGOA, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all black rockfish taken.

In the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts only, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish (excluding thornyheads) taken.

All rockfish retained in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish retained due to full-retention requirements may be kept for a person's own use however; the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

#### **Federal Demersal Shelf Rockfish Landing Requirements**

Fishermen are reminded that **full retention of demersal shelf rockfish is also required in federal waters east of 140° W. longitude (Southeast Outside District)**. DSR taken in federal waters must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket and DSR in excess of bycatch allowances must be reported as bycatch overage. DSR overage from federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce. Full-retention regulations for DSR do not apply in federal waters of the Icy Bay

Subdistrict (IBS) and DSR are included as part of the 5% aggregated rockfish bycatch allowance permitted for halibut in that area.

### Lingcod

Lingcod bycatch in the halibut longline fishery is allocated by management area. Lingcod management areas include Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 1). Lingcod catches will be closely monitored, and fishermen are advised that area closures may occur on short notice as allocations are taken. Closures will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report, and National Weather Service broadcast. For information on lingcod bycatch status and closures, contact the Sitka Area Office at 907-747-6688 or the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

**IFQ Halibut Fishery Bycatch Limits for State Waters and State Managed Groundfish taken in Federal Waters:** Percentage indicates amount that may be sold and is based on the round weight of halibut and bycatch species or species group.

BYCATCH SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 MILES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%, <b>Full retention required.</b> Regulations also apply in Federal waters of Southeast Outside Subdistrict.	
Black, Blue and Dark Rockfish (State and Federal Waters)	15% in aggregate. <b>Full retention required for black rockfish.</b>	15% in aggregate. <b>Full retention required.</b>
Other Rockfish and Thornyhead	5% in aggregate.	5% in aggregate. <b>Full retention required, excluding thornyhead.</b>
Lingcod (State and Federal Waters)	20%, EYKT, NSEO, CSEO and SSEOC. 5%, IBS.	20%, NSEI. 5%, SSEIW.
	Lingcod bycatch permitted until area GHM taken. Bycatch allowed for <b>longline gear only.</b>	
	Minimum size limit- 27" (tip of snout to tip of tail) or 20.5" (front of dorsal fin to tip of tail).	
Pacific cod	20%.	
Spiny Dogfish	35%, longline gear. 20%, jig gear.	
Skates	5% in aggregate.	
Sablefish	0%, no retention.	
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.	

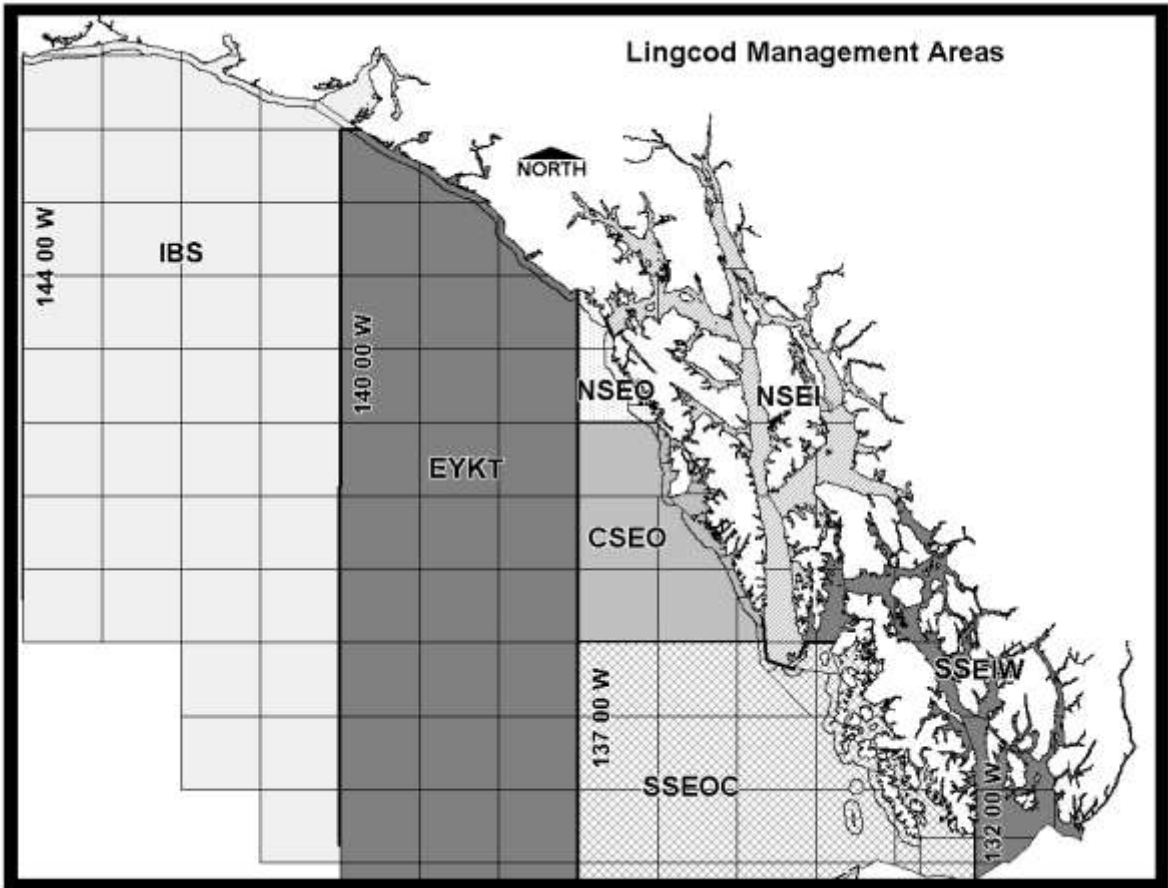
**For information on the halibut fishery bycatch allowances in federal waters** refer to:

[http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries\\_reports/reports/details/?report\\_id=404](http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries_reports/reports/details/?report_id=404) and

<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab10.pdf> or contact NOAA enforcement at (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg), or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

### Harvest of bait by commercial permit holders in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska

A CFEC interim use permit holder may take groundfish in waters of Alaska, for use as bait in waters of Alaska, in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held. A person who takes groundfish for bait during a fishing trip and uses the bait during that trip, must report the bait taken by species and estimated weight on the fish ticket prepared for that fishing trip. Groundfish harvested for bait shall be reported on the fish ticket as delivery code 92. **Sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken for bait or used for bait, except** that the head, tail, fins, and viscera of delivered and processed commercial sablefish, lingcod, and thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may be used for bait (5 AAC 28.190).



**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.**

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&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
<i>Groundfish Hotline</i>				747-4882			