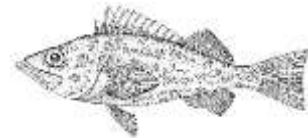

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
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Date: January 3, 2013
Time: 11:15 a.m.

2013 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska directed black rockfish fishery. The directed black rockfish season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2013 unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

Legal Gear

Black rockfish may be taken in the directed black rockfish fishery only by dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines [5 AAC 28.130(d)(1)(A)]. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for the directed black rockfish fishery is the Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish permit (M card) and it is issued specific to a particular gear type. Longline gear is not a legal gear type for the directed black rockfish fishery.

Registration

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed black rockfish fishery [5 AAC 28.106(e)]. Registration forms are available at local department offices.

Logbooks

The operator of a vessel fishing for black rockfish is required to maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations [5AAC 28.175]. A copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing. Logbooks must detail the date, the specific location of harvest by six digit statistical area and nearest headland, the number of lines and total hooks used, the average depth fished, the hours fished for each line, and the number of target and bycatch fish taken, by species. The department also requests that the latitude and longitude of each fishing effort is recorded with the corresponding logbook effort information. Tag number, latitude and longitude of catch, depth, and measured length of tagged fish should be recorded in the comments section of the logbook. Logbooks are available at the local department offices.

Federal Requirements

Vessels fishing for groundfish in federal waters (EEZ) of the Gulf of Alaska are subject to federal regulations and requirements. Vessels participating in the directed black rockfish fishery in the EEZ are required to retain and report all demersal shelf rockfish (DSR); therefore they must possess a Federal Fisheries Permit. For additional information contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7225.

Guideline harvest limits

The guideline harvest limits for the directed black rockfish fishery [5 AAC 28.160(c)(3)] are as follows:

Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)- not to exceed 25,000 round pounds

East Yakutat (EYKT) Section- not to exceed 25,000 round pounds

Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section- not to exceed 50,000 round pounds

Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section- not to exceed 100,000 round pounds

Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector - not to exceed 125,000 round pounds

Closed Waters (Figure 1)

Black rockfish may not be taken in a directed fishery in the following waters [5 AAC 28.150(e)]:

- (1) In NSEO between 57°37.00' N. lat. and 57°40.00' N. lat.
- (2) In CSEO
 - (A) between 57°10.00' N. lat. and 57°03.00' N. lat.;
 - (B) the waters of Sitka Sound 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.;
 - (C) between 56°22.50' N. lat. and 56°18.70' N. lat.;
 - (D) Groundfish may not be taken in 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.;
- (3) In SSEOC between 54°56.70' N. lat. and 54°44.40' N. lat.;
- (4) The Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector are closed to directed fishing for black rockfish.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Black Rockfish Fishery

A permit holder directed fishing for black rockfish in the waters of Alaska in the Southeast District may retain and sell the following bycatch percentage, based on the round weight of black rockfish on board:

- Lingcod- 10% (CSEO and SSEOC, May 16- November 30 or until area lingcod allocations are taken; minimum size limit- 27" tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" front of dorsal fin to tip of tail; mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear only.)
0% (IBS, EYKT, NSEO);
- Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)- 10%;
- Dusky and Yellowtail rockfish- 20% in aggregate;
- All other rockfish and thornyheads- 15% in aggregate;
- Pacific cod- 20%;
- Spiny dogfish- 20%;
- Sablefish- 0%;
- Other groundfish- 20% in aggregate.

For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7225.

Full retention of DSR bycatch is required for CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish in all waters of the Southeast District. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, china, and rosethorn rockfish. All DSR in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on a department fish ticket. DSR bycatch overage from state waters, in excess of legal limits, may be retained for personal use or sold; however all proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch must be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Excess DSR bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but may not enter commerce.

Black rockfish catches will be closely monitored and fishermen are advised that area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by news release and on the United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

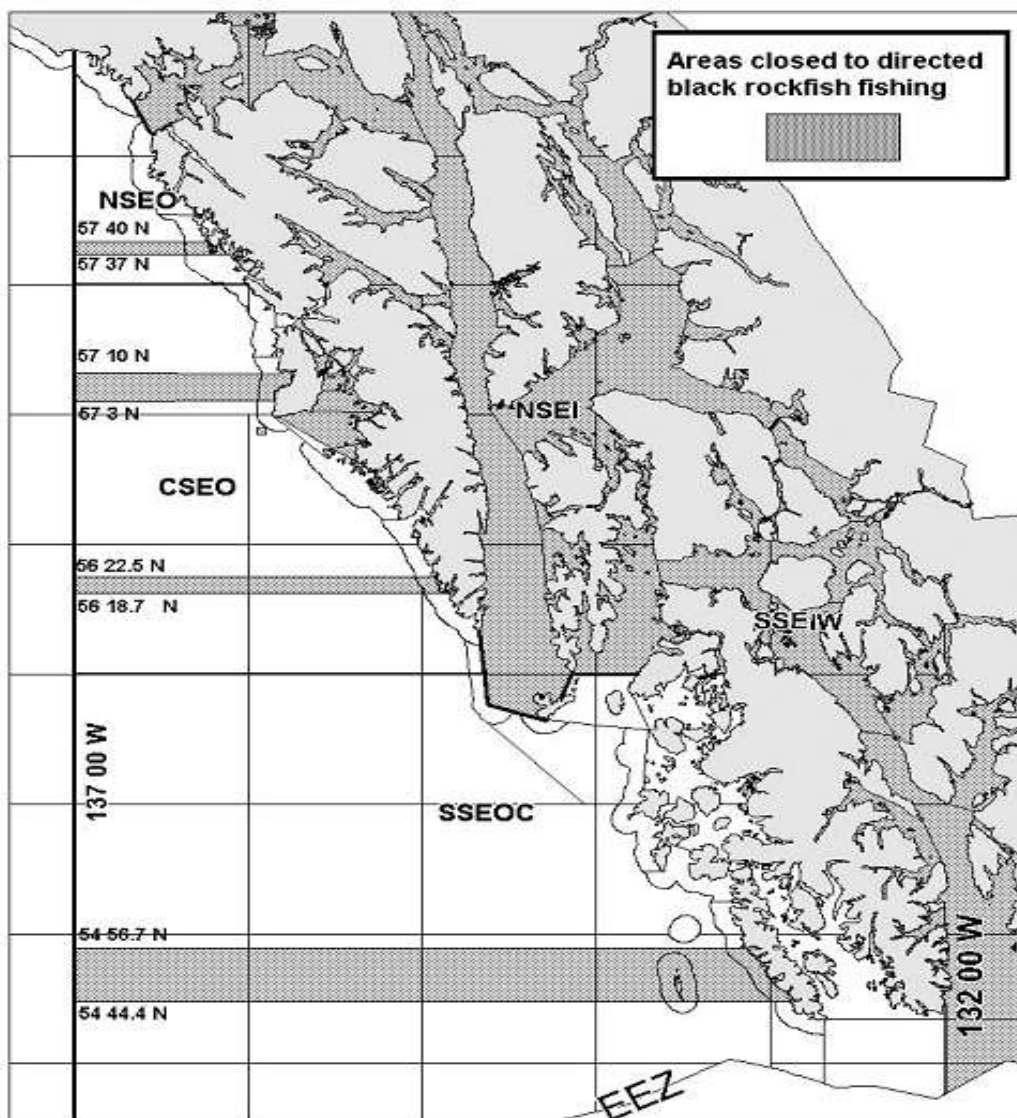


Figure 1.*This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of management area boundaries and closure areas, refer to 5AAC 28.105 and 5AAC 28.150 (c) and (e) (1-3).

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

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