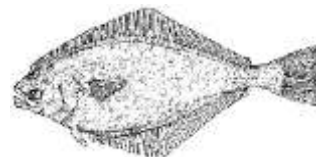

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: March 1, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.

2019 GROUNDFISH BYCATCH REGULATIONS FOR STATE WATERS AND STATE MANAGED GROUNDFISH 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 2019 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.

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

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 maybe be used for bait (5 AAC 28.190).**

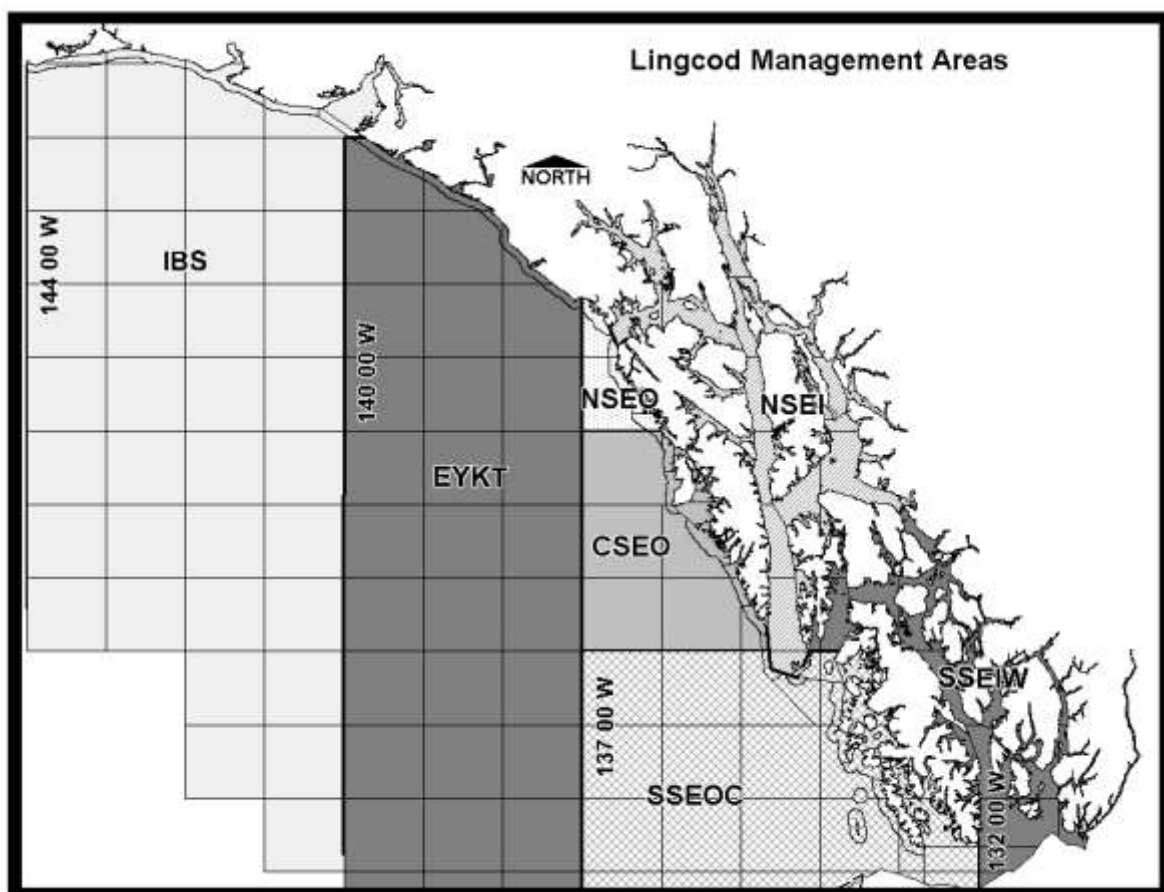


FIGURE 1. SOUTHEAST ALASKA LINGCOD MANAGEMENT AREAS.

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>.

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