EAST YAKUTAT SECTION DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka… The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the directed fishery for lingcod will close in the entire East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, including the Fairweather Grounds, at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 18, 2019. The 2019 directed lingcod fishery guideline harvest level (GHL) for the EYKT Section is 111,000 round pounds. Based on reports from the grounds and catch rates in recent years, the department anticipates that the 22 vessels participating in the fishery will have taken the GHL by the time of the closure.

The directed lingcod fishery remains open in the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector. Lingcod catch will be closely monitored and fishermen should expect additional area closures on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report, and the National Weather Service marine broadcast.

Updates of area closures for all lingcod fisheries are available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882. For additional information on the directed lingcod fishery, refer to the ADF&G news release issued on March 8, 2019.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0719.