



Advisory Announcement

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2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY

The directed black rockfish season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2021, unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

Legal Gear

Black rockfish may be taken in the directed fishery only by dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines. **Longline gear is not a legal gear type for the directed black rockfish fishery.** No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel and no more than 30 hooks per line may be operated from a jig machine. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)]. 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.

Vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter "D" and vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter "M" (5 AAC 28.135). A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying more than one of these letters at any time. A vessel may not display either letter while the vessel is being used to fish for salmon.

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 ADF&G offices.

Logbooks

The operator of a vessel fishing for black rockfish is required to maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations [5 AAC 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 latitude and longitude (in degrees and decimal minutes and nearest headland); the number of lines and total number of hooks used; the average depth fished; the hours fished for each line; the number of target and bycatch fish taken, by species, for each unique geographic location fished. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices.

Guideline harvest limits

The guideline harvest limits (GHL) 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.

There is no black rockfish fishery GHL established for the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict or Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector.

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.

Federal Regulations and 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 land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish or halibut; therefore, they must possess a Federal Fisheries Permit. For additional information contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7202.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Black Rockfish Fishery

A permit holder directed fishing for black rockfish in waters of Alaska (0-3 nm) in the Southeast District may retain and sell the following bycatch percentage, based on the round weight of black rockfish on board. State bycatch allowances that apply in adjacent federal waters (3-200 nm) are noted in the table below. For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7228.

BYCATCH SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0–3 NM)
Rockfish, including thornyhead	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR Full retention required for DSR^{1,2} and black rockfish³
Lingcod ⁴	20% in CSEO and SSEOC in state and federal waters 0% in IBS, EYKT, and NSEO
Pacific cod	20%
Spiny Dogfish	20%
Sablefish	0%, no retention
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate

¹ Regulations also apply in Federal waters of Southeast Outside Subdistrict

² The demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish.

³ State and Federal waters

⁴ May 16–November 30 or until area lingcod allocations are taken; the minimum size limit is 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.

All rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Rockfish 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 rockfish bycatch must be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Excess rockfish bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated, they may not enter commerce.

Other Information

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 ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, National Weather Service broadcast, and the Groundfish Project's telephone hotline (907) 747-4882.

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>.

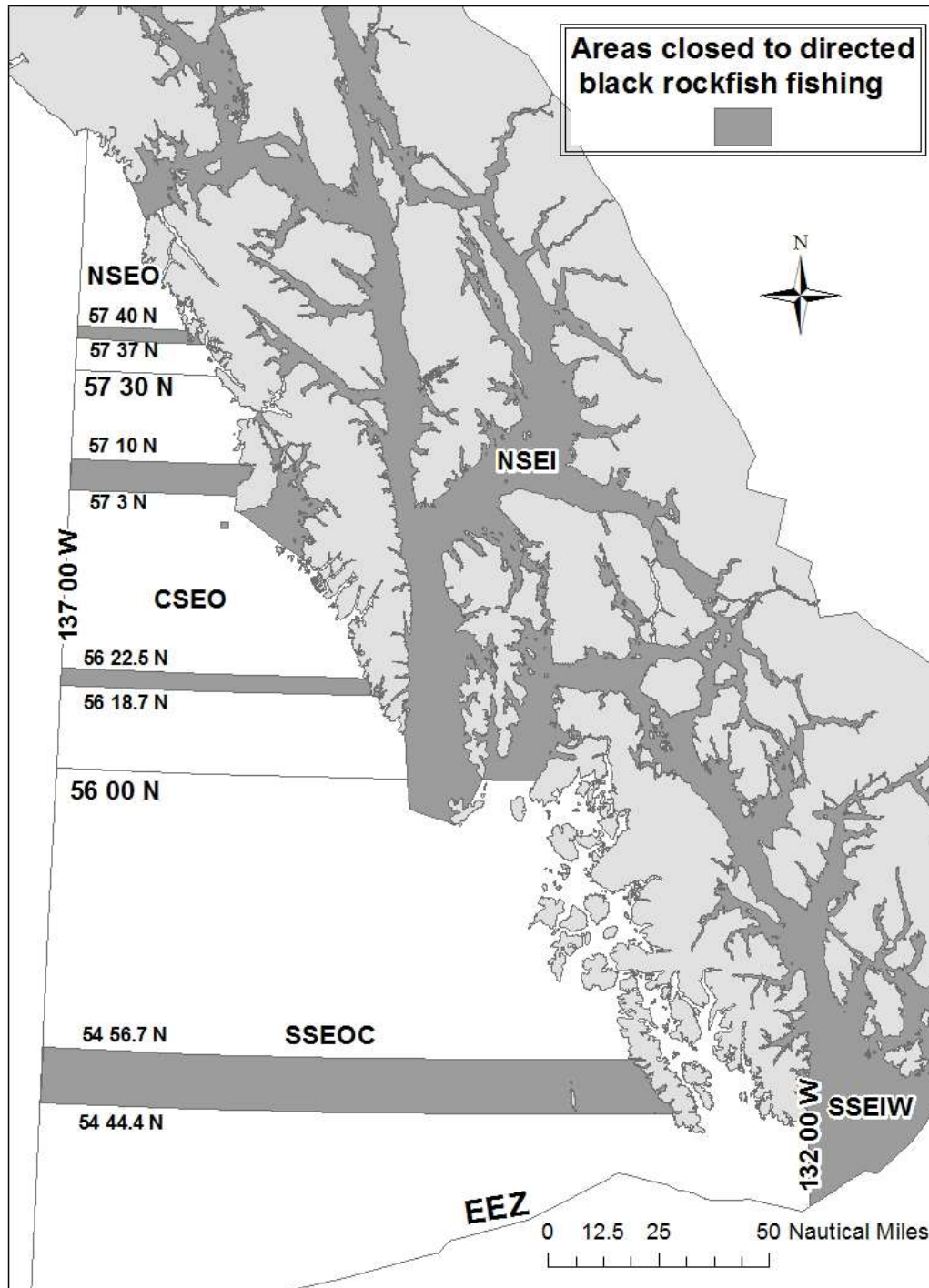


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska black rockfish management areas and closed waters. For detailed descriptions of management area boundaries and closure areas, refer to 5 AAC 28.105 and 5 AAC 28.150(c) and (e)(1-3). This map is for general reference only.

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

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