



Advisory Announcement

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2025 DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERIES

The directed demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) commercial fisheries in the Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict will not open January 5, 2025, as specified in regulation. Stock assessment results indicate positive trends and stock status is being evaluated to determine if there is sufficient resource to conduct an orderly directed fishery and if there are no area-specific conservation concerns. The SEO area includes the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) sections (Figure 1). **Details regarding potential directed fishery openings in SEO, NSEI, and SSEI Subdistricts, or continued closure of these areas will be announced on February 3, 2025.** If any directed DSR commercial fishery openings are announced, the fishing season will begin at 9:00 a.m. on February 10, 2025, and fishery areas would remain open until allocations are taken or until 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the start of the commercial halibut fishery, whichever occurs first.

With conservative management actions over the last decade, the overall trend in yelloweye rockfish biomass in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska is showing a slight, positive trend. However, biological data (length, weight, and age by sex) continue to show few older age classes, indicating reduced reproductive potential and increasing uncertainty for future recruitment. The department will continue conservative management action to ensure sustainable rockfish fisheries in the future while providing opportunity for fisheries. Stock status will be assessed annually using survey data, biological sampling of yelloweye rockfish, and monitoring yelloweye bycatch retained in commercial groundfish and halibut fisheries, as mandated under full-retention requirements (5 AAC 28.171).

The personal use bottomfish fishery is open to the retention of all seven DSR species: yelloweye, quillback, China, rosethorn, copper, canary, and tiger rockfish. Personal use fishers are required to follow regulations in 5 AAC 77.674 which restrict the daily possession limit for rockfish to three fish, of which one may be a yelloweye rockfish in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, and the bag and possession limit for rockfish to three fish, of which one may be a yelloweye rockfish in the Ketchikan vicinity area. Personal use fishers are encouraged to utilize rockfish deepwater release devices to decrease release mortality of rockfish while bottomfish fishing for other species. More information on rockfish conservation and deepwater release devices can be found on the ADF&G website at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.rockfishconservation>

The subsistence bottomfish fishery remains open for retention of all seven DSR species, in areas defined in 5 AAC 01.716, except that bottomfish may not be taken for subsistence purposes in the waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.5' N lat, 56°57' N lat, 135°54' W long, and 135°57' W long [5 AAC 01.725 (b)].

Annette Island Reserve

Fishers are reminded the Annette Island Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants. Metlakatla residents are also reminded that waters beyond 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are managed by the State of Alaska. Proper licensing, permitting, and reporting are required.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0225.

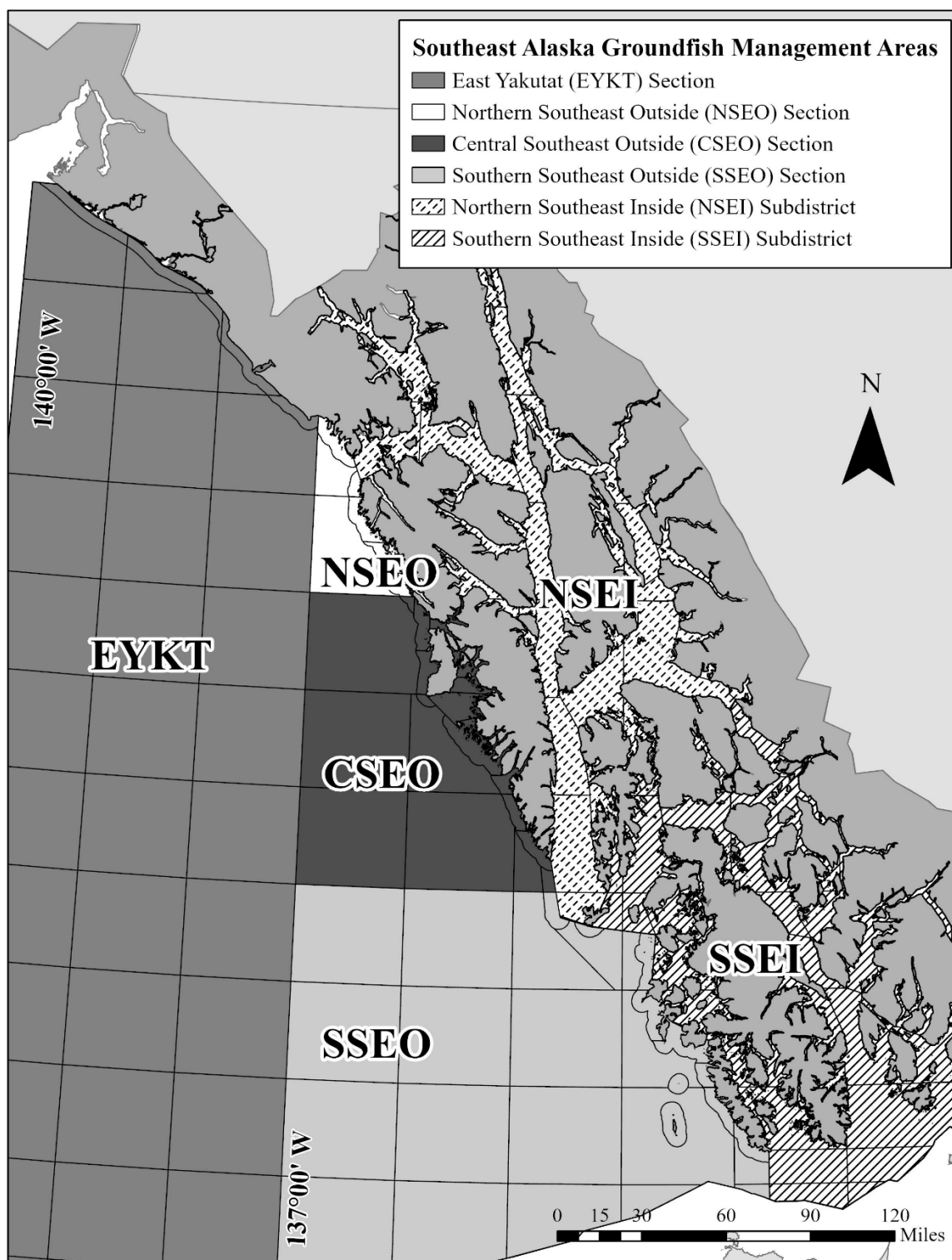


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska groundfish management areas. This map is for general reference only. For descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.

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

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