



Advisory Announcement
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2025 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY

The directed commercial fishery for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) will open at 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 10, 2025, in the Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and portions of the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict (Figure 1). These areas will remain open until the fishery quotas are taken or until 4:00 p.m., March 19, 2025, whichever occurs first. The directed fishery will remain closed in the East Yakutat (EYKT) and Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Sections. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

Directed DSR Commercial Fishery Quotas

Groundfish Management Area	Quota (round lb)
East Yakutat (EYKT) Section	0
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section	0
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section	60,000
Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section	80,000
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict	36,850
Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict	36,850

The 2025 DSR harvest target in the Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict is 661,387 round lb after the deduction of the 2025 estimated subsistence harvest (15,432 round lb). Regulation 5 AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(A) allocates 84% (555,565 round lb) to commercial fisheries and 16% (105,822 round lb) to sport fisheries. This commercial quota is then apportioned by groundfish management area based on the contribution of that area to the overall biomass. The quota remaining for the directed DSR commercial fishery in SEO is determined after deducting estimates of DSR bycatch mortality in other fisheries [5 AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(B)].

A management area may be opened to directed fishing if survey and stock assessment results indicate there is sufficient resource to conduct an orderly fishery and if there are no area-specific conservation concerns. The yelloweye rockfish density has increased in all four groundfish management areas in SEO based on the most recent survey data from each management area. While the density of yelloweye rockfish has increased in EYKT and NSEO, the remaining quotas after subtracting decrements are not sufficient to prosecute an orderly fishery in either management area.

The 2025 annual directed commercial DSR harvest limit for the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts is 55,000 round lb in each management area [5 AAC 28.160 (c)(2)] with 36,850 round pounds allocated to the winter fishery in each area. The remainder of the harvest objective will be available for harvest in the fall portion of the fishery.

The directed DSR fishery catches will be closely monitored, and fishers are advised that area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard broadcast, National Weather Service broadcast, and the Groundfish Project's telephone hotline 907-747-4882.

DSR Trip Limits (5 AAC 28.171)

Directed DSR fishery trip limit regulations prohibit the take, possession, or delivery of DSR in excess of the trip limit amount. In the Southeast District east of 137° W long, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not take or possess on board the vessel or deliver more than 6,000 lb of DSR (whole or bled weight) in any five-day period [5 AAC 28.171(d)]. All DSR taken in excess of 6,000 lb by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket as a trip limit overage. All proceeds from the sale of demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 6,000 lb shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.

Registration (5 AAC 28.106)

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) “Y” interim use permit is required for the directed DSR fishery and it is issued specific to a gear type. This card must be obtained before registering and fishing. Fishers are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed DSR fishery [5 AAC 28.106 (d)].

Logbooks (5 AAC 28.175)

The operator of a vessel fishing in the directed DSR fishery 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. For each set, fishers are required to report on logbooks the date and time, latitude and longitude (degrees and decimal minutes) of start and end positions, hook spacing, amount of gear (skates and hooks), depth, and estimated catch by species. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices.

Legal Gear (5 AAC 28.130)

In the Southeast District, DSR may be taken in the directed fishery by longline, hand troll, dinglebar troll, and mechanical jigging machines [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(3)(B)]. Dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line that is set and retrieved with a troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with one or more lures or baited hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is making way. Only one troll gurdy line may be deployed in the water at any time [5 AAC 28.130(h)(1)]. 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 jigging machine. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)].

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.

Closed Waters (5 AAC 28.150)

Demersal shelf rockfish may not be taken in a directed fishery in the following waters (Figure 1):

- (1) Sitka Sound Special Use Area: 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' 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.
- (2) In the Ketchikan vicinity: all waters of Behm Canal, Clarence Strait, Tongass Narrows, Nichols Passage, George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Thorne Arm, Revillagigedo Channel, and all contiguous waters enclosed by the latitude of Bushy Point Light, a line from Point Alava to the southernmost tip of Ham Island, a line from Cedar Point to Dall Head, and a line from Dall Head to a point in midstream Clarence Strait at the latitude of Dall Head to Caamano Point.
- (3) In the vicinity of Craig and Klawock: all waters of Ulloa Channel north of the latitude of Waterfall Cannery, and all waters enclosed by a line from the southernmost tip of St. Philip Island to the northernmost tip of San Fernando Island, to Point Cangrejo.
- (4) Glacier Bay National Park: the waters of Glacier Bay north of a line from Point Carolus at 58°22.694' N lat, 136°02.535' W long, to Point Gustavus at 58°22.748' N lat, 135°54.927' W long, and the waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line running from 58°22.900' N lat, 136°25.300' W long, to 58°23.600' N lat, 136°24.600' W long. For additional information contact the Glacier Bay National Park Service at 907-697-2230.
- (5) Edgecumbe Pinnacle Marine Reserve: 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.

- (6) **Gulf of Alaska Coral Protection Areas:** there is one HAPC (Habitat Areas of Particular Concern) near Cape Ommaney and four HAPCs on the Fairweather Grounds that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear, including dinglebar troll gear. For additional information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228. Locations of the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679 at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-679/appendix-Table%2026%20to%20Part%20679>.

Annette Islands Reserve

The Annette Islands 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 the adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve (Figure 1). Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants.

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 DSR fishery in the EEZ are required to retain and land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish; therefore, they must possess a Federal Fisheries Permit. For additional information contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances

CFEC permit holders directed fishing for DSR must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish caught including thornyhead rockfish [5 AAC 28.171(a)]. All rockfish 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 from state waters must be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Excess rockfish bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but may not enter commerce.

Bycatch of species that do not fall under full retention requirements and are caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit for a management area are required to be released at sea; bycatch retained in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and are subject to enforcement action. Additional information on lingcod bycatch harvest and calculating bycatch allowances can be found at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.groundfish#harvest>.

A permit holder who is directed fishing for DSR in state waters of the Southeast District may legally retain, possess, and sell the following bycatch percentages in the table below, based on the round weight of all DSR on board. For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

GEAR TYPE	BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS (NSEI and SSEI)	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0–3 MILES)
LONGLINE AND JIG	Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention is required for all rockfish, including thornyhead.	15% in aggregate. Full retention is required for all rockfish, including thornyhead.
	Lingcod*	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35%; bycatch permitted until GHL taken. <u>Jig fishery:</u> 0%	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35%; bycatch permitted until GHL taken. <u>Jig fishery:</u> 0%
	Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35% <u>Jig fishery:</u> 20%	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35% <u>Jig fishery:</u> 20%
	Sablefish	0%, no retention	0%, no retention
	Pacific cod	20%. Full retention required when directed Pacific cod fishery is open.	20%. Full retention required when directed Pacific cod fishery is open.
	Skates	Aggregated with “Other Groundfish”	5%
	Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate	20% in aggregate

*The minimum size limit for lingcod is 27” from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5” from front of the dorsal fin to tip of tail. Lingcod Management Areas include Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sectors, Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), and the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Sections (5 AAC 28.105).

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0325.

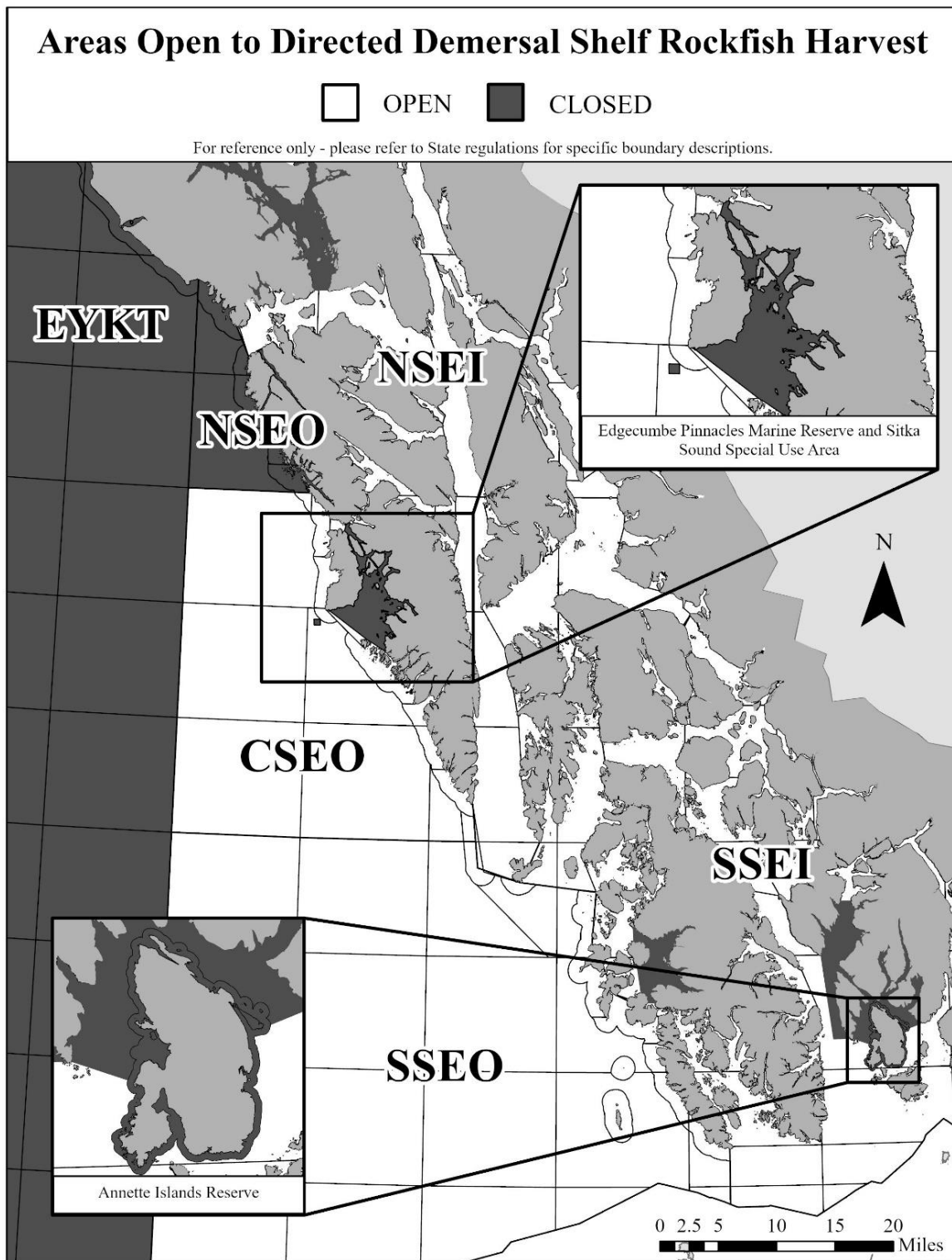


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska groundfish management areas open and closed to the 2025 directed demersal shelf rockfish fishery. This map is for general reference only. For descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
Groundfish Hotline				747-4882			