

will be closely monitored, and fishermen are advised that area closures to the retention of lingcod may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced via ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard broadcast, and National Weather Service broadcast.

In February 2025, the Board of Fisheries adopted new regulations that will be enacted during the federal commercial halibut fishery season in the EGOA. An advisory announcement will be issued at a later date with more information. New regulations include clarifications on lingcod bycatch. When fishing halibut with longline gear, or fishing halibut and sablefish at the same time, lingcod caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit, based on the round weight of halibut on board the vessel, must be immediately released at sea. Lingcod landed in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket and sold; all proceeds from the sale of excess lingcod bycatch shall be surrendered to the state.

For information on lingcod bycatch status and closures, contact the Sitka Area Office at 907-747-6688, the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882, or visit the following webpage for lingcod harvest information by fishery and area: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.lingcod_fishery_update.

Pacific cod possession and landing requirements [5 AAC 28.070 (e)]

The NSEI and SSEI directed Pacific cod season is open from January 1 through December 31 unless closed by emergency order at an earlier date; however, seasonal closures may occur to avoid overharvest of Pacific cod during winter spawning. The directed Pacific cod fishery in state waters on the outer coast is managed in conjunction with the federal fishery, which occurs in the EEZ (3–200 nm offshore). Directed Pacific cod fishery area closures will be announced.

When fishing in waters of NSEI and SSEI that are open to directed fishing for Pacific cod, a CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish or halibut shall retain all Pacific cod brought on board. Additionally, a Miscellaneous Finfish permit (M-card) holder may retain and sell all Pacific cod taken when fishing with the gear designated on that permit card.

When fishing in waters of NSEI and SSEI that are closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod, a CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish or halibut shall retain all Pacific cod up to the maximum retainable bycatch (20%); a CFEC permit holder fishing these areas may not sell Pacific cod that exceeds the allowable bycatch amount.

Harvest of bait by commercial permit holders in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area (5 AAC 28.190)

A CFEC interim use or limited entry permit holder may take groundfish in Alaska waters for use as bait in Alaska waters 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 and retained for bait but not sold shall be reported on the fish ticket as delivery code 92. Sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken 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 may be used for bait.

IFQ Halibut fishery allowable bycatch limits for state waters and state managed groundfish taken in federal waters

In 2020, allowable bycatch limits for rockfish were adjusted to facilitate consistency between state and federal regulations [5 AAC 28.070 (b)]. A vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for IFQ halibut may retain and sell the following bycatch percentages shown in the table on the next page. The amount of bycatch that may be sold is based on the round weight of halibut and bycatch species or species group.

For information on the IFQ bycatch allowances in federal waters, refer to:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-679#Table-10-to-Part-679> and <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-679/appendix-Table%2011%20to%20Part%20679> or contact NOAA enforcement: 907-747-6940 (Sitka); 907-586-7225 (Juneau); 907-772-2285 (Petersburg); or 907-247-5804 (Ketchikan).

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0125.

Allowable bycatch limits in the IFQ Halibut fishery:

BYCATCH SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 MILES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI
Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR Full retention required for all rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR Full retention required for all rockfish, including thornyheads
Lingcod	20% in EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC 5% in IBS	20% in NSEI 5% in SSEIW
	Bycatch allowed for longline gear only ; lingcod bycatch permitted until area GHL taken. Minimum size limit: 27" (tip of snout to tip of tail) or 20.5" (front of dorsal fin to tip of tail)	
	<i>No lingcod bycatch allowed in the sablefish fishery or caught by pot gear</i>	
Pacific cod	20%	
Spiny Dogfish	35% for longline gear; 20% for jig gear	
Skates	5% in aggregate	
Sablefish	0%, no retention	
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate	

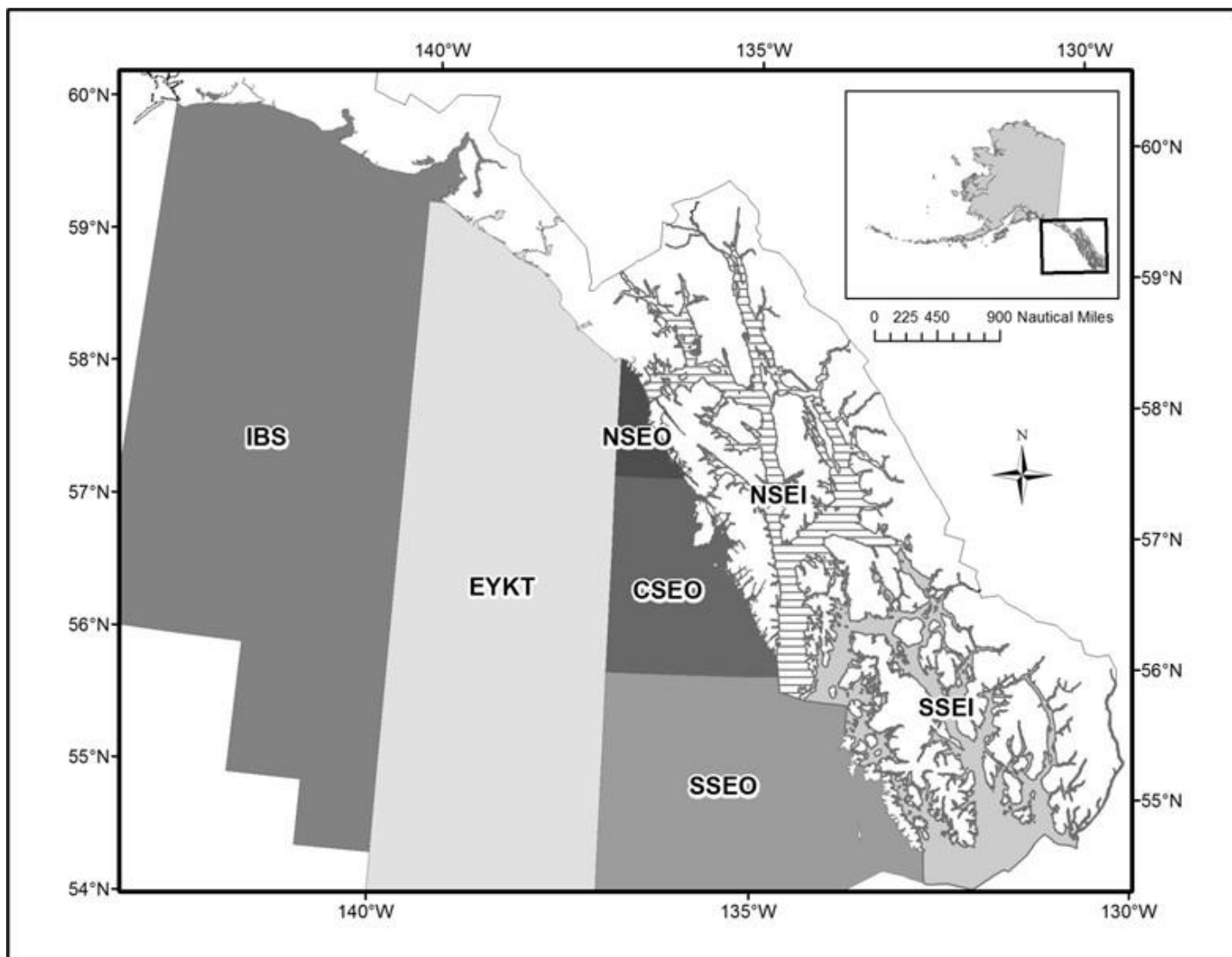


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska commercial groundfish management areas. For detailed descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105. This map is for general information purposes only.

Lingcod Management Areas

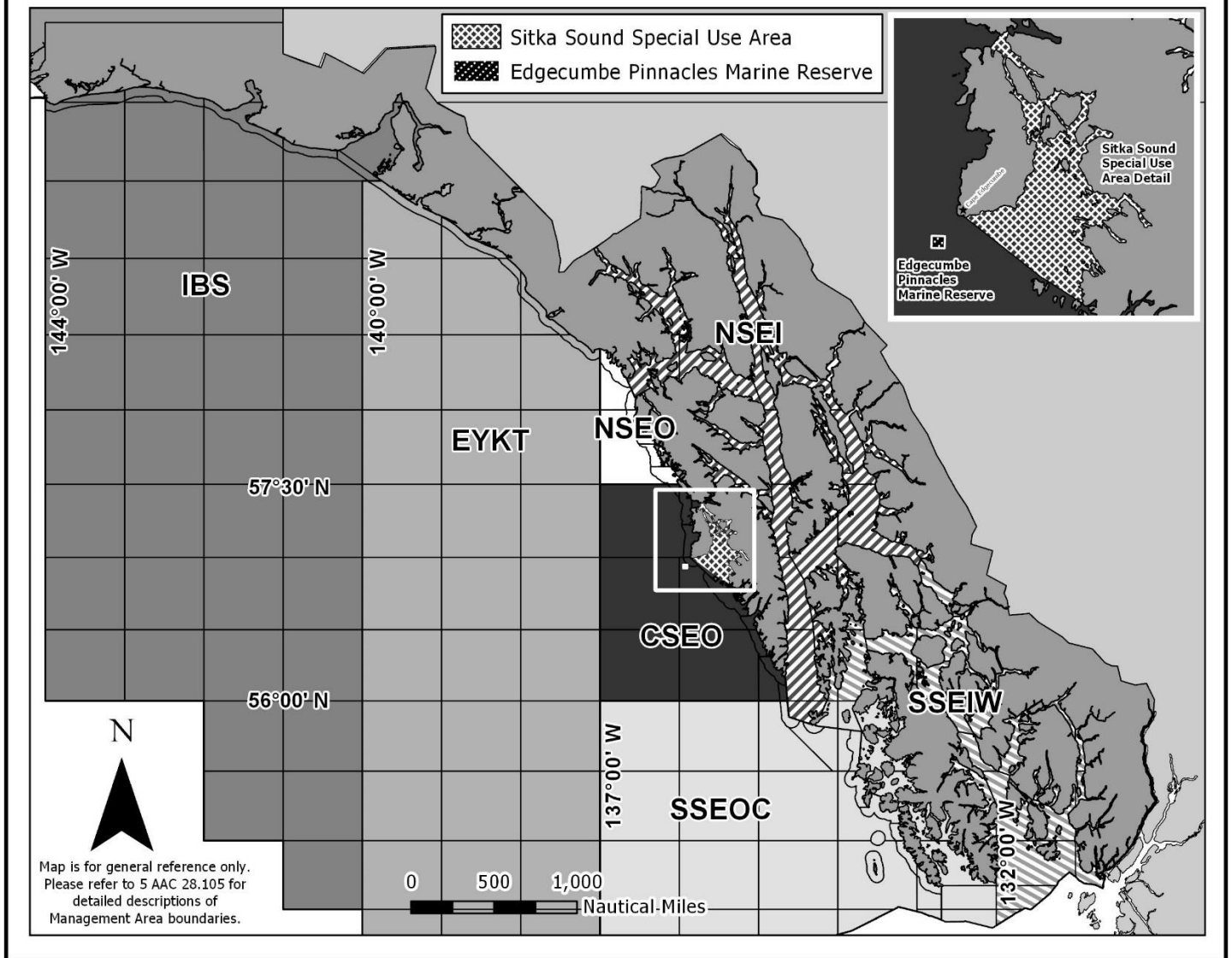


Figure 2.—Southeast Alaska lingcod management areas. For detailed descriptions of lingcod management area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105. This map is for general information purposes only.

Advisory announcement website: <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			