



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

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Cook Inlet Area **Pelagic Rockfish Jig Season Opens with Area Closures** **Emergency Order # 2-GF-H-09-25**

The commercial season for the Cook Inlet Area directed pelagic shelf rockfish (PSR) jig fishery will open July 1 at midnight 12:00 a.m. in the North Gulf District between 150° 00.00'W and 151° 20.00'W. long. (see map below). All remaining waters of the Cook Inlet Area will be closed to the PSR directed fishery to reduce the harvest of pelagic rockfish in areas of high noncommercial harvest. Participants are reminded that they may not operate gear in the areas closed to the PSR fishery and participate in the PSR fishery during the same trip. The guideline harvest level for all rockfish species combined is 150,000 pounds for directed and bycatch rockfish harvest in the Cook Inlet Area. Legal gear types for the directed PSR fishery are mechanical jig and hand troll. Only legal gear types may be aboard a vessel.

There is a 6-hour prior notice of landing (PNOL) requirement. Participants must contact ADF&G after each directed pelagic rockfish jig trip in the Cook Inlet Area by telephoning (907) 226-2121 at least 6 hours prior to landing and reporting the following: 1) vessel name/ADF&G number, 2) date and location of landing, including estimated time of arrival, 3) buyer or processor, and 4) estimated pounds of rockfish onboard.

Only pelagic shelf rockfish (PSR) species may be targeted in the directed rockfish fishery which include black, dark, dusky, widow, yellowtail, and deacon rockfish. All rockfish caught must be retained, including those considered bycatch species. Five-day trip limits for all rockfish combined are 4,000 pounds in the North Gulf District.

Log sheets are required while participating in the PSR fishery. Log sheets must: 1) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of hooks fished, the average depth of each set fished, and the time gear is deployed and hauled, for each set; 2) include for the target species, and for each bycatch species, the number of fish retained and discarded, 3) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation; 4) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request. Also, completed log sheets must be submitted within 7 days of landing, preferably accompanying corresponding fish tickets.

Allowable non-pelagic rockfish bycatch levels in the Cook Inlet Area PSR fishery are 20% combined round weight of all pelagic shelf rockfish on board the vessel. Rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch levels must be reported as an overage on the fish ticket and any proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska.

ADF&G management authority for black and dark rockfish extends into federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In addition to state requirements of a gear-appropriate permit card and area registration, fishers

targeting black rockfish or dark rockfish in federal waters are also required to have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP). FFP application forms are available online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-federal-fisheries-permit-and-federal-processor-permit-applications> and at National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices in Homer, Anchorage, or Seward.

Required groundfish registrations and logbook pages may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Homer, Soldotna, and Anchorage. Questions should be directed to the Homer ADF&G office at 907-235-8191.

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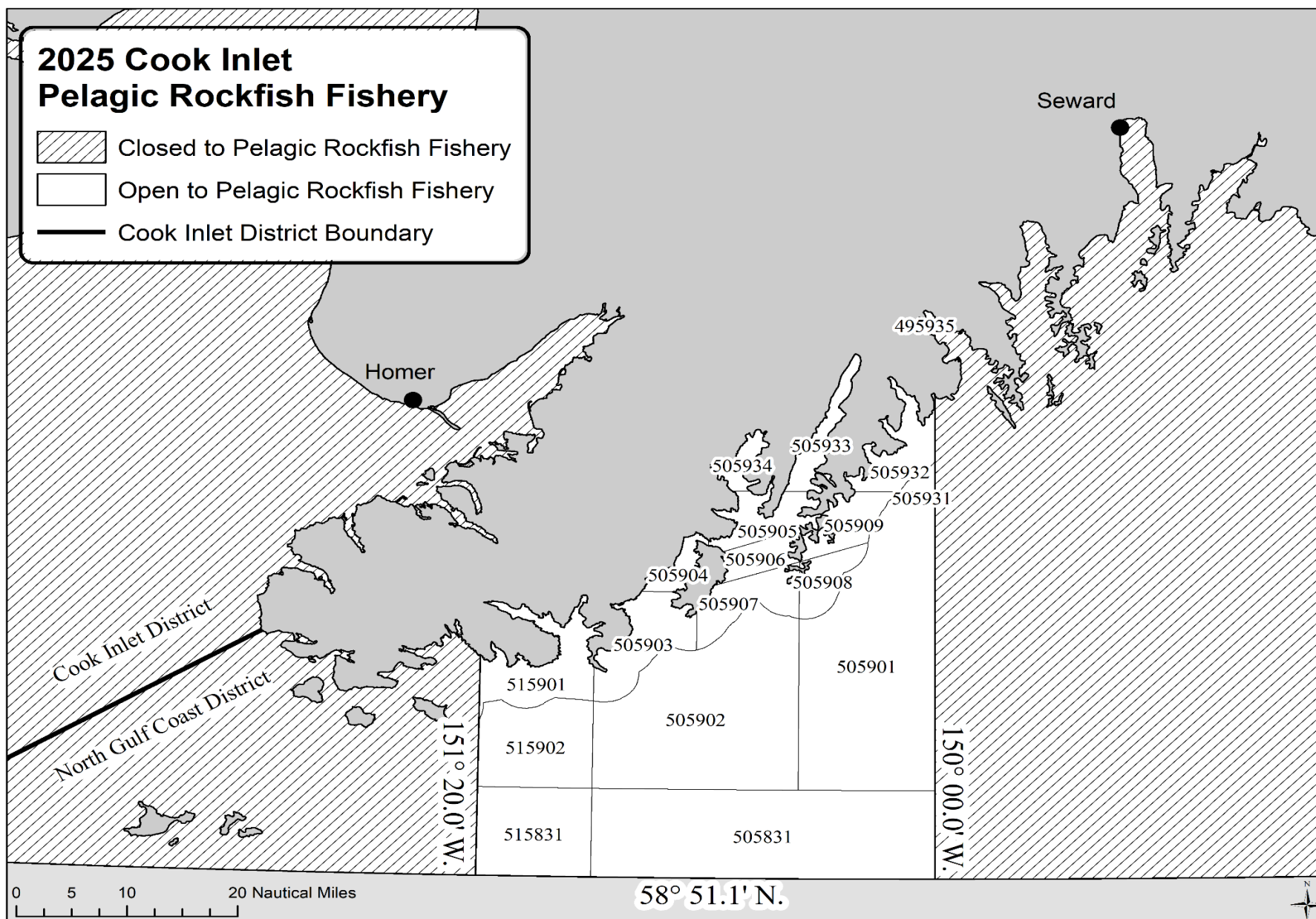


Figure 1. Cook Inlet Area Directed Pelagic Shelf Rockfish Area Closures.