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REGULATORY UPDATES FOR THE DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY

Regulations adopted at the 2025 Southeast Board of Fisheries meeting for the directed lingcod fishery will become effective **June 27, 2025,** (https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Notices/View.aspx?id=219750) and are summarized below:

Weather Delay Provision

The season opening for the directed lingcod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, excluding the Icy Bay Subdistrict superexclusive registration area, will be delayed in all management areas if the National Weather Service marine forecast contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher in the forecast for May 15, 16, or 17. The opening will be delayed for:

- 24 hours if the forecast issued by 8:00 a.m., May 13 contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher for May 15–16;
- 48 hours if the forecast issued by 8:00 a.m., May 13 contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher for May 17.

An announcement of a season opening delay will be issued at least 24 hours before May 16. If gale force winds of 35 knots or higher continue after the initial delay, the season opening will be delayed an additional 24 hours and may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis as necessary for up to five days after the scheduled opening date.

The corresponding marine forecast areas for the management sections of the Southeast Outside Subdistrict are as follows:

- East Yakutat (EYKT) Section: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape;
- Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section: Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer, Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather;
- Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section: Cape Decision to Cape Edgecumbe, Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer;
- Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision [5 AAC 28.113(e)–(g)].

Legal Gear

An operational unit of dinglebar troll gear consists of a train made from a single line to which one or more leaders, lures, or baited hooks are attached, that is fastened to a single troll wire, and that is deployed and retrieved with a single power troll gurdy or a single hand troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight pulled through the water while a vessel is making way. Only one operational unit of dinglebar troll gear may be onboard a vessel or deployed from the vessel at or below the surface of the water at a time. Weights, including dinglebars, cannon balls, and other fishing weights must be disconnected from the troll wires of all other gurdies that are mounted on the vessel. Additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel [5 AAC 28.130(h)(1)]. Spare gear is allowed on board the vessel but may not be connected or rigged to be operational.

Catch Reporting Requirement

Permit holders must report the following information to the department during the directed lingcod fishery: name of the permit holder and vessel name, groundfish management areas in which the permit holder is fishing, number of lingcod retained by area, number of hours fished by area, and other information as requested by the department [5 AAC 28.173(h)].

Advisory Announcement website: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main.

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