Division of Commercial Fisheries Forrest R. Bowers, Acting Director

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Advisory Announcement For Immediate Release: June 25, 2025 CONTACT: Rhea Ehresmann Region I Groundfish Project Leader rhea.ehresmann@alaska.gov (907) 747-6688

REGULATORY UPDATES FOR NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE (NSEI) SUBDISTRICT AND SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE (SSEI) SUBDISTRICT SABLEFISH

Regulations adopted at the 2025 Southeast Board of Fisheries meeting for the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict sablefish commercial fisheries will become effective **June 27, 2025**, (<u>https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=219750</u>) and are summarized as follows:

<u>Legal Gear</u>

Pots must have at least two circular escape rings, with a minimum inside diameter of three and one-half inches, installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls of the pot [5 AAC 28.130(f)].

Logbook Requirements

Logbooks for longline and pot gear must include vessel and permit holder information, trip details (e.g., dates, port, crew size, bait, gear specs), and set data such as gear deployment and retrieval times, start and end coordinates, gear amounts, and depth. They must also include the number or weight of all retained and released target and bycatch species, as well as any tag numbers from tagged fish [5 AAC 28.175(b)(1)].

Prohibitions for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area – participation in other fisheries

A vessel or a person on board a vessel may not participate in a commercial sablefish fishery in the NSEI and SSEI subdistricts if the vessel or person on board the vessel operates commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use halibut or groundfish fishing gear during the 72-hour period immediately before an opening of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict.

A vessel or permit holder participating in a commercial sablefish fishery in NSEI or SSEI may not operate subsistence, sport, or personal use halibut or groundfish fishing gear during the commercial sablefish fishery or during the 72 hours immediately following the closure of that fishery unless they meet specific exemptions. Exemptions include if the vessel has not yet registered or if the vessel or permit holder has fully harvested and offloaded their quota at least 72 hours prior, has removed their commercial gear from the water for 72 hours, and has canceled their registration at least 72 hours earlier with a local representative of the department [5 AAC 28.180 (a–b)].

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

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