



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: January 2, 2026***

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**2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY**

The directed black rockfish season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2026, unless closed by emergency order.

**Legal Gear**

Black rockfish may be taken in the directed fishery only by dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines. Longline gear is not a legal gear type for the directed black rockfish fishery. 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 jig machine. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)]. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for the directed black rockfish fishery is the Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish permit (M card), and it is issued specific to a particular gear type.

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.

**Registration**

Fishers are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed black rockfish fishery [5 AAC 28.106 (e)]. Registration forms are available at local ADF&G offices.

**Logbooks**

The operator of a vessel fishing for black rockfish 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. Logbooks must detail: the date; the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude (in degrees and decimal minutes and nearest headland); the number of lines and total number of hooks used; the average depth fished; the hours fished for each line; the number of target and bycatch fish taken, by species, for each unique geographic location fished. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices.

**Guideline Harvest Limits**

The guideline harvest limits (GHL) for the directed black rockfish fishery [5 AAC 28.160 (c)(3)] are as follows:

Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) – not to exceed 25,000 round pounds

East Yakutat (EYKT) Section – not to exceed 25,000 round pounds

Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section – not to exceed 50,000 round pounds

Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section – not to exceed 100,000 round pounds

Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector – not to exceed 125,000 round pounds.

There is no black rockfish fishery GHL established for the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict or Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector.

**Closed Waters**

Black rockfish may not be taken in a directed fishery in the following waters [Figure 1; 5 AAC 28.150(e)]:

- (1) In NSEO: between 57°37.00' N lat and 57°40.00' N lat.
- (2) In CSEO: (A) between 57°10.00' N lat and 57°03.00' N lat;

- (B) 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°43.00' 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;
- (C) between 56°22.50' N lat and 56°18.70' N lat;
- (D) Groundfish may not be taken in 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;
- (3) In SSEOC: between 54°56.70' N lat and 54°44.40' N lat.

## 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 black rockfish fishery in the EEZ are required to retain and land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish or halibut; 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 black rockfish **must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish caught including thornyhead rockfish** [5 AAC 28.171(a)]. All rockfish and thornyhead 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 and thornyhead rockfish bycatch from state waters shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce. The demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish.

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 shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska. 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 black rockfish in waters of Alaska (0–3 nautical miles, nmi) in the Southeast District may legally retain, possess, and sell the following bycatch percentages, based on the round weight of black rockfish on board. For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

BYCATCH SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0–3 NMI)
Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR <sup>1</sup> in state and federal waters. <b>Full retention required for all rockfish, including thornyheads</b>
Lingcod <sup>2</sup>	20% in CSEO and SSEOC in state and federal waters 0% in IBS, EYKT, and NSEO
Pacific cod	20%
Spiny Dogfish	20%
Sablefish	0%, no retention
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate

<sup>1</sup> The DSR bycatch allowance is 10% in all state waters of the Southeast District and in those waters of the EEZ that are east of 140° W long. In IBS federal waters, DSR are aggregated with other rockfish and limited to 5% bycatch.

<sup>2</sup> May 16–November 30 or until area lingcod allocations are taken; the minimum size limit is 27" tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" front of dorsal fin to tip of tail; mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear only.

Black rockfish 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.

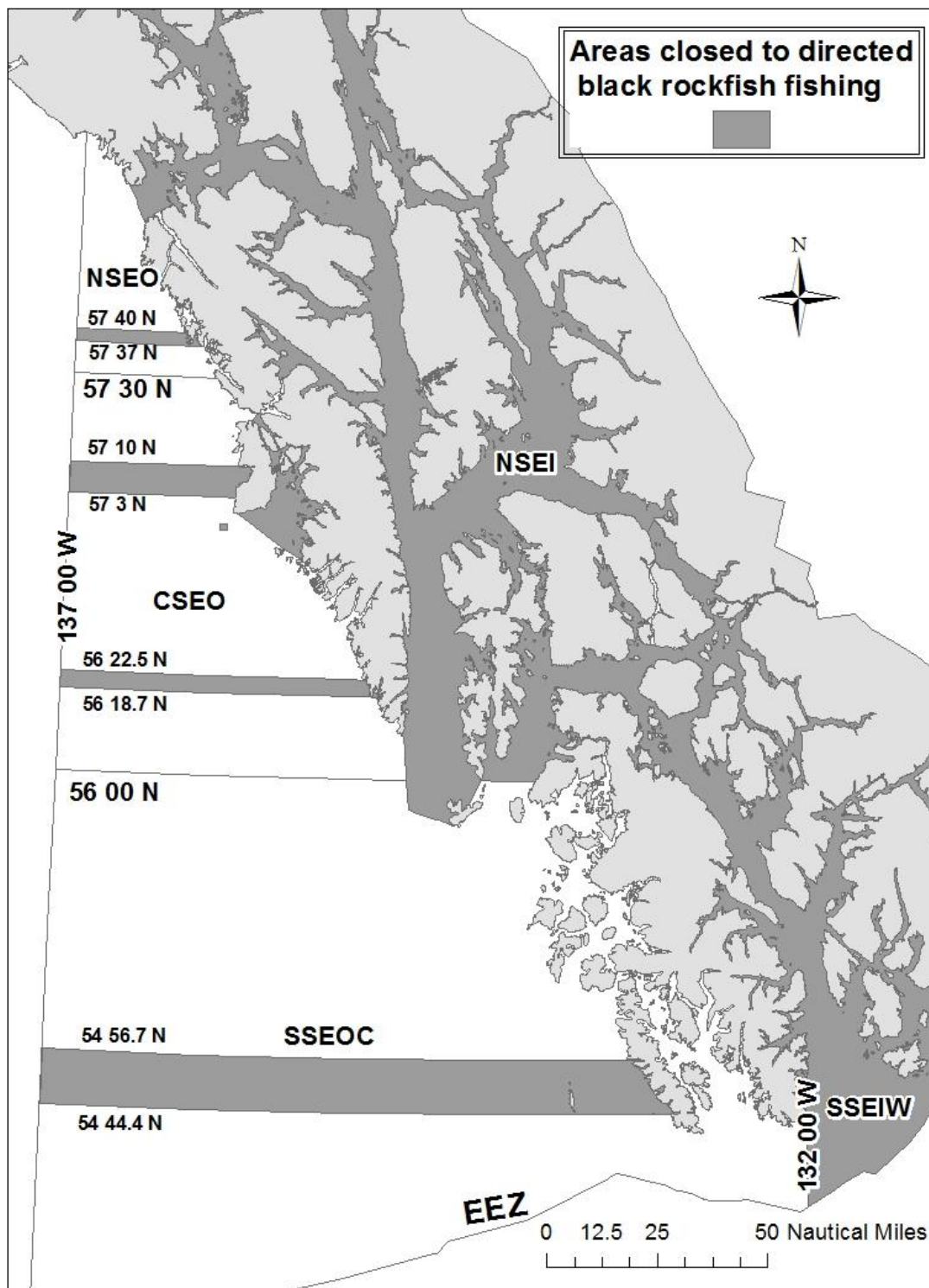


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska black rockfish management areas and closed waters. This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of management area boundaries and closure areas, refer to 5 AAC 28.105 and 5 AAC 28.150 (c) and (e)(1-3).

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			