



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: January 2, 2026

CONTACT: Alex McCarrel
Groundfish Biologist
alex.mccarrel@alaska.gov
(907) 747-8322

GROUNDFISH BYCATCH IN THE 2026 SALMON TROLL FISHERY

Salmon troll permit holders operating hand or power troll gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska during an open commercial salmon fishing period may legally retain, possess, and sell incidentally taken groundfish (5 AAC 28.133). Bycatch allowances in state waters (internal waters and 0-3 nautical miles, nmi) are summarized in the table below. State bycatch allowances that apply in adjacent federal waters (3-200 nmi) are noted. The bycatch allowance for each species or species aggregate reflects the percentage that may be retained and sold and is based on the round weight of salmon and the round weight of the bycatch species on board the vessel. There are no full-retention requirements for groundfish bycatch in the salmon troll fishery; therefore, the bycatch allowances in the table below show the maximum percentage that a permit holder may legally retain, possess, and sell. Bycatch caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit for a management area are required to be released at sea; bycatch retained and landed 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 is available at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.groundfish#harvest>.

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Lingcod ¹	100% IBS, CSEO, NSEI, and SSEIW 50% EYKT, SSEOC 5% NSEO Lingcod bycatch allowances also apply in federal waters.
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10% in aggregate. DSR bycatch allowance also applies in federal waters, excluding IBS .
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest. Also applies in federal waters.
Other Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest in state waters. 5% in aggregate in federal waters. In IBS federal waters, DSR are included as part of this "Other Rockfish" category when computing bycatch allowances.
Spiny Dogfish	35%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Other Groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest.

¹Lingcod Management Areas: Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 1). Refer to **Lingcod Regulations** section of this announcement for additional restrictions on lingcod.

Lingcod and black, blue, and dark rockfish are state-managed species and the bycatch allowances for these species in federal waters [exclusive economic zone (EEZ)] are the same as those set for state waters. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, canary, quillback, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish. 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 longitude. The bycatch allowance for other rockfish in the EEZ is 5% in aggregate. In IBS federal waters, DSR are aggregated with other rockfish and limited to 5% bycatch. For information on bycatch limits for groundfish in federal waters, refer to 50 CFR 679: Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska, Table 10 to Part 679-Gulf of Alaska Retainable Percentages at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e928699f8903a416bed34b9bcaae6903&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5> or contact NOAA Sustainable

Fisheries Division 907-586-7228 or NOAA Enforcement 907-747-6940 (Sitka), 907-586-7225 (Juneau), 907-772-2285 (Petersburg), or 907-247-5804 (Ketchikan).

Vessels trolling for salmon in the EEZ in the Gulf of Alaska that retain groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. If the vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess an FFP. For information on FFPs contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202 or 800-304-4846. An FFP is not required for vessels retaining groundfish bycatch in state waters or for lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish taken in the EEZ, as these species are exempt from federal permit requirements.

Lingcod Regulations

The retention of lingcod bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery is open May 16–November 30, or until area-specific lingcod troll allocations are harvested. All lingcod retained must measure at least 27” from tip of snout to tip of the tail or 20.5” from front of dorsal fin to tip of the tail. In the Southeast District, a vessel salmon fishing with troll gear may not land or have on board lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit specified in the first emergency order of the season, based on the round weight of salmon on board the vessel. Lingcod caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit 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. Proceeds from the sale of excess lingcod bycatch shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska [5 AAC 28.173(a)(5)]. Lingcod management areas will be closed to lingcod retention as area troll allocations are taken. Vessels with lingcod bycatch on board may not fish in an area closed to troll lingcod retention until those lingcod have been offloaded from the vessel. Fishers are advised that area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard broadcast, the National Weather Service broadcast, and on the Groundfish Hotline 907-747-4882.

2026 Lingcod Allocations for the Salmon Troll Fishery

Lingcod Management Area	Allocation (round pounds)
Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)	8,000
East Yakutat (EYKT)	16,000
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)	3,200
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)	16,800
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC)	11,690
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI)	6,400
Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW)	2,080

Lingcod in Sitka Sound

During the open lingcod season, a vessel fishing for salmon with troll gear in the waters of Sitka Sound, as described in 5 AAC 28.150 (a), may retain and possess on board no more than two lingcod per 5 AAC 28.173(a)(4). The dorsal fin of each lingcod taken in this area must be removed immediately and the head must remain attached as evidence of compliance with the minimum size requirement. Having taken no more than two lingcod outside the Sitka Sound area, a vessel may fish for salmon within Sitka Sound only after removing the dorsal fin of those lingcod. Vessels in possession of more than two lingcod may not fish for salmon within this area until those lingcod are offloaded. Lingcod that have been marked by the removal of the dorsal fin may be utilized for personal use only and may not be sold. Personal use lingcod must be weighed and reported on the ADF&G troll salmon fish ticket and include the proper groundfish statistical area code, delivery code, and the personal use disposition code “95”.

Rockfish Regulations [5 AAC 28.171(i)]

A salmon troll permit holder operating hand or power troll gear during an open commercial salmon fishing period is not required to retain rockfish incidentally caught while fishing for salmon; however, retained rockfish must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. Retained rockfish in excess of the allowable bycatch limits established by emergency order, based on the round weight of salmon on board the vessel, must be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket and sold. Proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.

Closed Waters

Groundfish may not be taken in the waters off Cape Edgecumbe (Edgecumbe Pinnacles Marine Reserve) 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 (Figure 1).

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0126.

Lingcod Management Areas

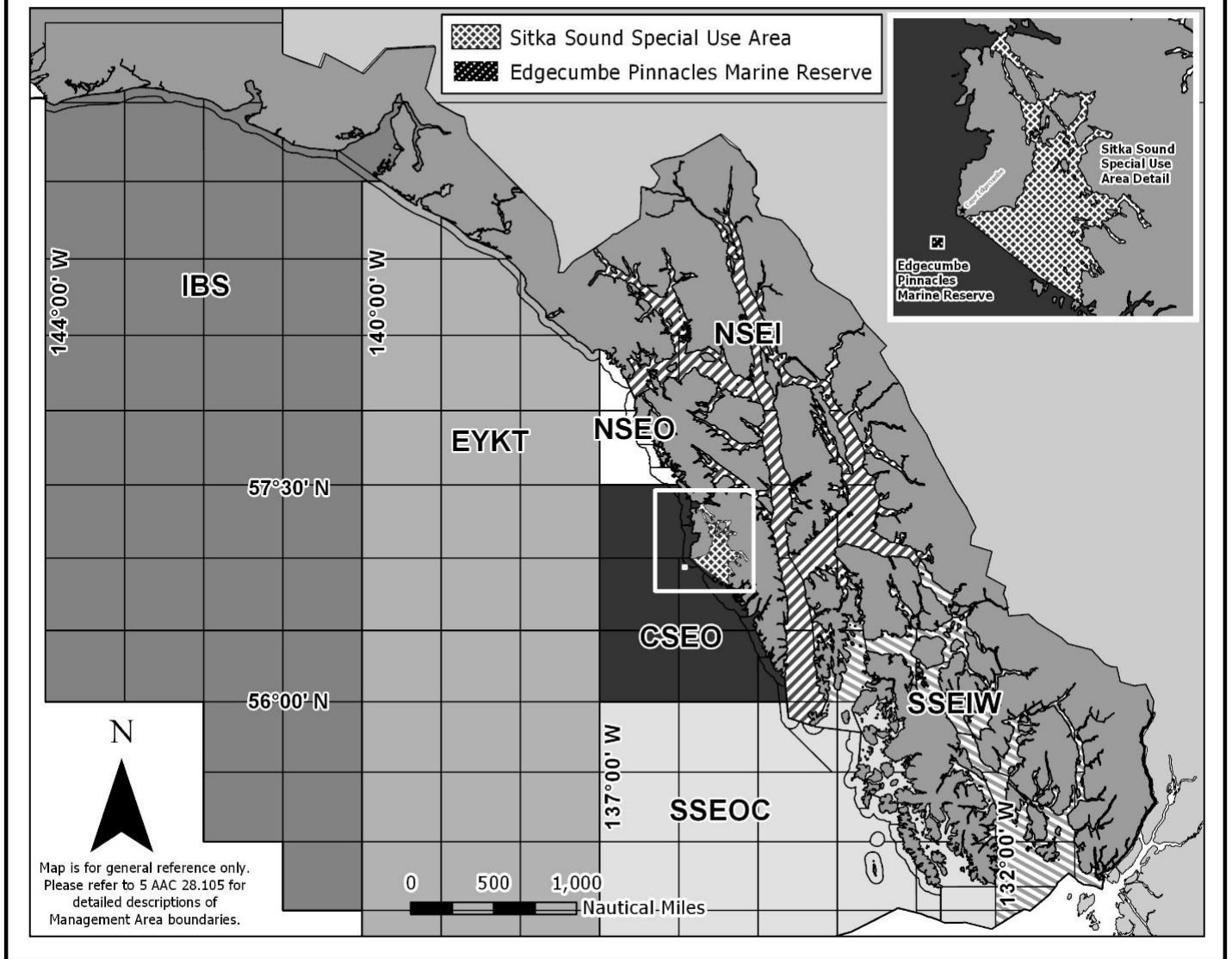


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Areas. This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.

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			