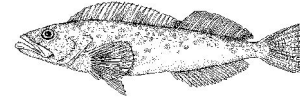

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
John Hilsinger, Director



Contact:
Mike Vaughn

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6239

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: March 23, 2009
Time: 3:00 p.m.

DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the directed fishery for lingcod will open in most waters of the Southeast District east of 144°00.00' W. longitude at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 16, 2009. The waters of the Central Southeast Outside Section (CSEO) between latitudes 56°55.50' N. and 56°57.00' N. and longitudes 135°54.00' W. and 135°57.00' W. (the Edgumbe Pinnacle area) and waters of Sitka Sound will remain closed to directed lingcod fishing (5 AAC 28.150(a) defines closed waters of Sitka Sound). No directed fishing for lingcod is permitted in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI) or in the Southern Southeast Internal Waters Sector (SSEIW). Five additional federal coral protection areas are closed in the Southeast District and are discussed on page 2 of this news release.

The directed lingcod quota (round pounds) for the following management areas are:

Management Area	Allocation
Icy Bay Sector (IBS)	66,660*
East Yakutat (EYKT)	111,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC)	50,100

*all gear commercial quota for directed lingcod, longline bycatch, and troll bycatch fisheries

Lingcod may be taken in a directed lingcod fishery only by mechanical jigging machines, dinglebar troll gear, and hand troll gear. The directed fishery permit for lingcod is an "I" card and is gear specific. Vessels fishing for groundfish with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter "D" and vessels fishing for groundfish with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter "M" (5AAC 28.135). The vessel owner or the owner's agent must register the vessel with the department prior to directed fishing for lingcod. The IBS directed fishery is a super exclusive registration area and has its own registration form. A CFEC permit holder who participates in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the Icy Bay Subdistrict may not participate or have participated in the directed commercial taking of lingcod as a CFEC permit holder in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year. Registration forms are available at area offices or on the SE Groundfish web site under Publications & Vessel Registrations of the Lingcod section.

Full retention of DSR and black rockfish is required for CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish in the Southeast District. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, tiger, copper, china, and rosethorn rockfish. A permit holder fishing for groundfish must retain, weigh, and report all DSR and black rockfish taken. All rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket as bycatch overage. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR taken in state waters and excess black rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. DSR overage taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but may not be sold or enter commerce. Lingcod fishermen may retain and sell unlimited amounts of black rockfish in areas open to directed black rockfish if they possess a Miscellaneous Finfish permit card (M card) for the gear that they are operating, and they are registered for the directed black rockfish fishery.

Vessel operators should note that federal Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements for the Southeast Alaska lingcod dinglebar fishery were repealed on February 20, 2009.

If a vessel is used to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska and is required to retain any groundfish caught in the EEZ, the vessel must have a federal fishing permit. Full retention of DSR in the EEZ is required by state regulation 5AAC 28.010 and 5AAC 28.171. If the vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess a federal fisheries permit <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/infobulletins/bulletin.asp?BulletinID=3571>. For information on Federal Fisheries Permits contact NMFS at 907-586-7202, 800-304-4846, or download an application at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/FFPAPP.pdf>. Federal fisheries permits are not required for vessels fishing in state waters.

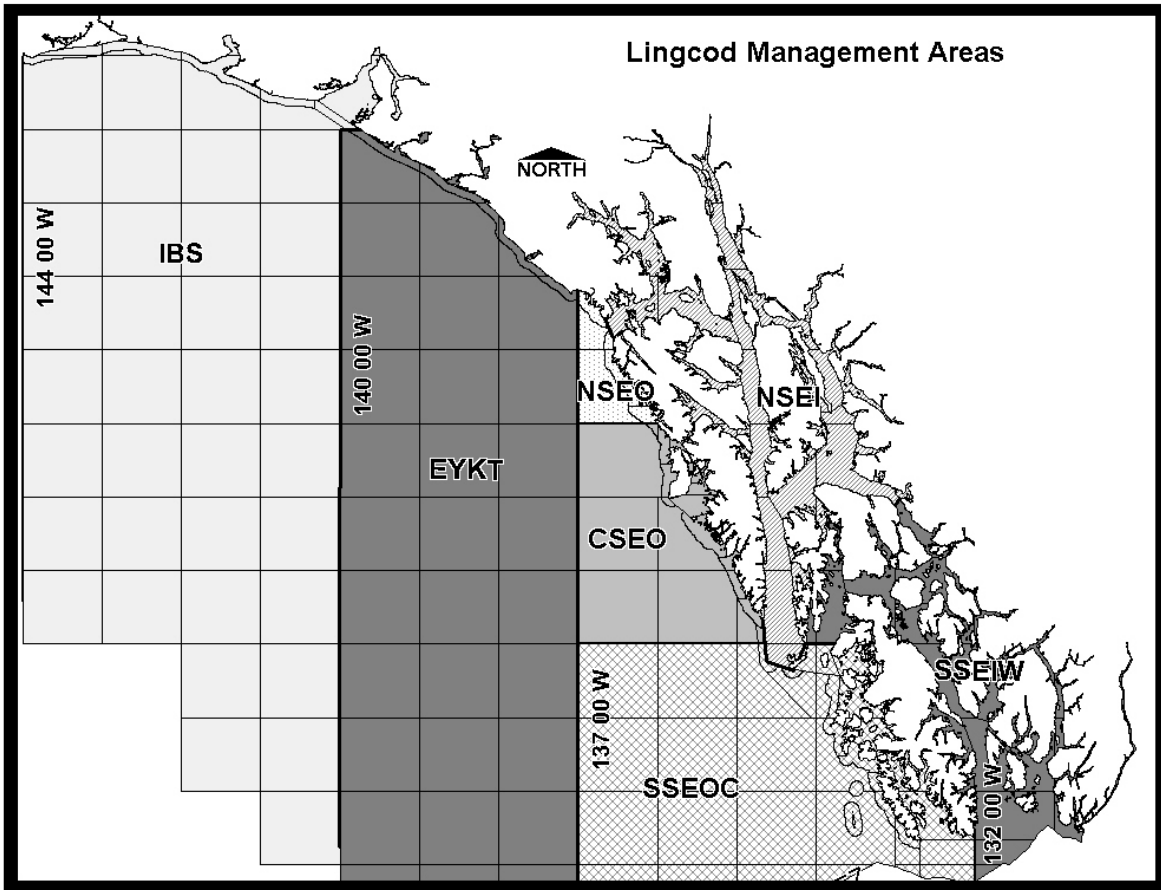
Vessels fishing in the Eastern Gulf should note that there are four federal Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection areas on the Fairweather Grounds in the EYKT Section and one near Cape Ommaney in the CSEO Section that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear including dinglebar and longline. Information on federal Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) including coral protection areas may be found in Table 26 to Part 679 at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/71fr36694.pdf> or by contacting NMFS at 907-586-7228.

A permit holder directed fishing for lingcod in the Southeast District may retain the following bycatch percentage against the round weight of lingcod on board:

10%	Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)
15%	Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish in aggregate
5%	all other rockfish and thornyheads in aggregate
20%	Pacific cod
20%	Spiny dogfish
20%	other groundfish in aggregate

Lingcod logbooks are required for the fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing. Logbooks may be obtained at ADF&G area offices. All lingcod harvested must be a minimum of 27" in length. Undersized lingcod that are tagged may be retained as long as the tag is not removed from the fish. If you catch a tagged lingcod, record the tag number, depth, and latitude and longitude in the comments section of the corresponding set on the logbook. Call ADF&G when offloading fish in port. Tag rewards are available for tags returned and an annual drawing is held for a \$500 prize.

Catches will be closely monitored and fishermen should expect area closures on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by news release as well as the Coast Guard's "Notice to Mariners" report and the National Weather Service's broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 747-4882.



*This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Management Area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105. **Directed fishing for lingcod is prohibited in NSEI and SSEIW.**

Additional information on Southeast Regional Groundfish Fisheries can be found on our web site at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/finfish/grndfish/grndhom1.php>

News releases web site: <http://documents.cfl.adfg.state.ak.us/TopicContents.po>

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Groundfish Hotline				747-4882				