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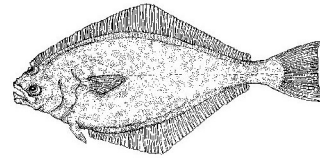
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner*  
*John Hilsinger, Director*



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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake St. Room 103  
Sitka, AK 99835  
Date: February 17, 2010  
Time: 2:15 p.m.

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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA GROUND FISH BYCATCH REGULATIONS FOR HALIBUT TAKEN IN STATE WATERS**

Sitka. . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning regulations that apply during the IFQ halibut fishery in the state waters of Southeast Alaska that are east of 144° W. longitude.

##### **Rockfish Possession and Landing Requirements (5 AAC 28.171)**

A vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) and black rockfish taken. The DSR rockfish assemblage includes yelloweye, canary, copper, tiger, quillback, china, and rosethorn rockfish.

In the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts only, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish species (excluding thornyheads) taken.

All 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 bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish retained due to full retention requirements may be kept for a person's own use however the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

##### **Federal Demersal Shelf Rockfish Landing Requirements:**

Fishermen are reminded that **full retention of demersal shelf rockfish is also required in federal waters**. All DSR taken in federal waters must be retained and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. DSR in excess of bycatch allowances must be reported as bycatch overage. DSR overage from federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but can not be sold or enter commerce.

##### **Lingcod**

Lingcod bycatch in the halibut longline fishery is allocated by management area. The lingcod management areas include the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), East Yakutat Section (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside Section (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside Section (CSEO), Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector (SSEOC), Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI), and Southern Southeast Internal Waters Sector (SSEIW). Lingcod catches will be closely monitored, and fishermen are advised that area closures may occur on short notice as allocations are taken. Closures will be announced by news release as well as the Coast Guard's "Notice to Mariners" report and the National Weather Service broadcast. For information on lingcod bycatch status, contact the Sitka Area Office at 747-6688 or call the Groundfish Hotline at 747-4882 for updates on lingcod closures.

**For information on bycatch in federal waters for the IFQ halibut fishery** refer to: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rf/tables/tab10.pdf> and <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2010/hal2010.pdf> or contact National Marine Fisheries Service at 747-6940 (Sitka), 586-7225 (Juneau), 772-2285 (Petersburg), or 247-5804 (Ketchikan). The bycatch allowance for lingcod, DSR, and black, blue, and dark rockfish in federal waters is the same percentage as that listed for state outside waters (0-3 miles) in the tables below.

**Bycatch Limits for the IFQ Halibut Longline Fishery in State Waters:** Percentage indicates amount that may be sold and is based on round weight of halibut and round weight of bycatch species.

| BYCATCH SPECIES  | STATE OUTSIDE WATERS<br>0-3 MILES  | INTERNAL WATERS<br>NSEI/SSEI   |
|--|--|--|
| Demersal Shelf Rockfish<br>(State and Federal Waters)        | 10%, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required</b>  | 10%, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required</b>  |
| Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish<br>(State and Federal Waters) | 15% in aggregate, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required for black rockfish only</b>   | 15% in aggregate, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required</b>   |
| All other rockfish and<br>thornyheads                        | 5% in aggregate, bycatch only  | 5% in aggregate, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required for all<br/>rockfish, except thornyheads</b> |
| Lingcod<br>(State and Federal waters)                        | 20%, CSEO, bycatch only<br>15%, EYKT, NSEO, SSEOC bycatch only<br>10%, IBS, bycatch only<br>27" minimum size limit                       | 5%, NSEI and SSEIW,<br>Bycatch only<br>27" minimum size limit  |
| Pacific Cod  | 20%, open to directed fishing with Misc. Finfish<br>permit (M card) when directed fishery open<br>(state waters close with EEZ closures) | 20%, open to directed fishing<br>with Misc. Finfish permit (M card)<br>in areas open to directed fishing |
| Spiny Dogfish  | 35%, bycatch only  | 35%, bycatch only  |
| Other Groundfish   | 20% in aggregate, bycatch only   | 20% in aggregate, bycatch only   |

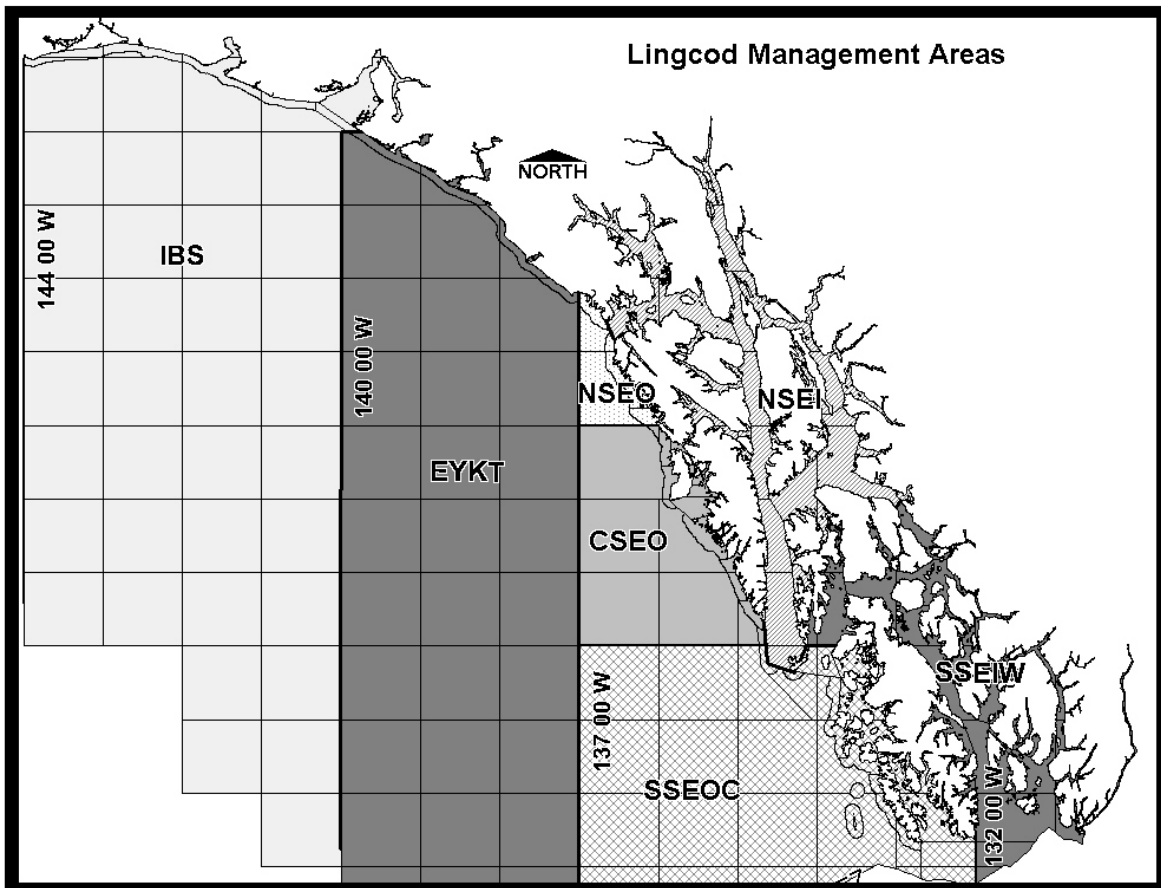
**Bycatch Limits for the IFQ Halibut Jig Fishery in State Waters:**

Percentage indicates amount that may be sold and is based on round weight of halibut and round weight of bycatch species.

| BYCATCH SPECIES  | STATE OUTSIDE WATERS<br>0-3 MILES  | INTERNAL WATERS<br>NSEI/SSEI   |
|--|--|--|
| Demersal Shelf Rockfish<br>(State and Federal Waters)        | 10%, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required</b>  | 10%, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required</b>  |
| Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish<br>(State and Federal Waters) | 15% in aggregate, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required for black rockfish only</b><br>Black rockfish open to directed with M card  | 15% in aggregate, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required</b>   |
| All other rockfish and<br>thornyheads                        | 5% in aggregate, bycatch only  | 5% in aggregate, bycatch only<br><b>Full retention required for all<br/>rockfish, except thornyheads</b> |
| Lingcod<br>(State and Federal Waters)                        | <b>0%,<br/>No lingcod retention allowed</b>  | <b>0%,<br/>No lingcod retention allowed</b>  |
| Pacific Cod  | 20%, open to directed fishing with Misc. Finfish<br>permit (M card) when directed fishery open<br>(state waters close with EEZ closures) | 20%, open to directed fishing<br>with Misc. Finfish permit (M card)<br>in areas open to directed fishing |
| Spiny Dogfish  | 20%, bycatch only  | 20%, bycatch only  |
| Other Groundfish   | 20% in aggregate, bycatch only   | 20% in aggregate, bycatch only   |

**Harvest of Bait by Commercial Permit Holders in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska:** Permit holders fishing in state waters may use groundfish taken on that trip for bait as long as this catch is reported by species, on the fish ticket for that landing, using delivery code 92. **Sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken for bait or used for bait.** Regulation 5AAC 28.190 (page 29 of the 2009-2010 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations Booklet) details all rules regarding harvest of bait.

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>



\*This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105.

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 |          |          |          |          |