



Advisory Announcement
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2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

At 12:01 a.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026, the directed lingcod fishery will open in outside waters of the Southeast District, east of 144° W longitude. Lingcod management areas will remain open to directed lingcod fishing until harvest allocations are taken or until 11:59 p.m., November 30, 2026, whichever occurs first.

Directed lingcod fishery allocations:

Lingcod Management Areas (Figure 1)	Harvest allocation (round lb)
Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)	46,000
East Yakutat (EYKT) Section	111,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector	50,100
Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict	0
Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector	0

Lingcod size limits [5 AAC 28.173 (e)]

All lingcod retained must measure at least 27 inches in length from the tip of snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Undersized lingcod must be returned to the water immediately.

Catch reporting requirement [5 AAC 28.173 (h)]

New for the 2026 season, in the directed lingcod fishery, a CFEC permit holder shall contact the department at a telephone number or other means specified by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information to the department:

- name of the CFEC permit holder,
- vessel name,
- groundfish management areas in which the permit holder is fishing,
- number of lingcod retained in each management area,
- number of hours fished in each management area, and
- any other information as requested by the department for the purpose of managing and conserving lingcod resources.

Call-ins are required for all registered permit holders until area harvest allocations are reached. Reporting requirements begin on May 16, or on the opening day of the 2026 directed lingcod fishery, should there be a weather delay. Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) will be informed if call-in requirements are not met. **Detailed contact information for catch reporting will be provided at time of registration.** The specific reporting requirements per management area are as follows:

Management Area	Catch Reporting Requirement
Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)	Every 5 days starting from the opening day of the fishery or the first day of fishing, whichever occurs first. Reports are due by midnight, or when fishing ends for the day, whichever is earlier.
East Yakutat (EYKT) Section	Every 12 hours starting from the opening day of the fishery. Two daily check-ins are required: one by noon and one by midnight, or when fishing ends for the day, whichever is earlier.
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section	Once per fishing day, due by midnight, or when fishing ends for the day, whichever is earlier.
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section	Once on the first day of fishing, due by midnight, or when fishing ends for the day, whichever is earlier, and then every 72 hours thereafter.
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector	Once on the first day of fishing, due by midnight, or when fishing ends for the day, whichever is earlier, and then every 72 hours thereafter.

Legal gear (5 AAC 28.130 and 5 AAC 28.135)

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) “I” interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. Lingcod may be taken in a directed lingcod fishery only by mechanical jigging machines (I26B), dinglebar troll gear (I25B), and hand troll gear (I05B). 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” on both sides of the hull, cabin, or mast (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.

The definition of dinglebar troll gear has been clarified for the 2026 season, as passed during the 2025 Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting. An operational unit of dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line with one or more leaders, lures, or hooks, fastened to a single troll wire, deployed and retrieved with a single power or hand troll gurdy, and pulled through the water while the vessel is moving. Only one operational unit may be onboard or deployed at a time. Weights, including dinglebars and cannon balls, must be disconnected from other troll wires on the vessel. Additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel [5 AAC 28.130(h)(1)]. **Spare gear is allowed on board the vessel but may not be connected or rigged to be operational.**

A mechanical jigging machine is a device that deploys a single line with lures or baited hooks and retrieves that line with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance. No more than five mechanical jigging machines, with no more than 30 hooks per line, may be operated from a vessel. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion and may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)].

Regulations that were adopted at the Statewide BOF meeting in March 2026 are **NOT currently in effect** but may go into effect during the 2026 directed commercial lingcod fishery season in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (EGOA). The regulation that the board passed amends the statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine, specifying structural components and dimensions, as follows: a mechanical jigging machine is a device **having a drum, spool, or reel measuring no more than 15 inches outside diameter by 7 inches inside width** that deploys a line with lures or baited hooks and retrieves that line with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance. An advisory announcement will be issued at a later date with more information.

Vessel registration (5 AAC 28.106)

The vessel owner or the owner’s agent must register the vessel with ADF&G prior to participating in a directed lingcod fishery in the EGOA. Vessel registration forms are available at ADF&G area offices. The IBS area is a super exclusive registration area for the directed commercial lingcod fishery. This designation means that a CFEC permit holder who participates in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in IBS may not participate or have participated in the directed

907-586-7202, 800-304-4846, or refer to: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-federal-fisheries-permit-and-federal-processor-permit-applications>.

Area closures

Catch and effort will be closely monitored, and fishers should expect area closures on short notice. Lingcod closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard broadcast, and the National Weather Service broadcast. Area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

For information on lingcod fishery status and closures, contact the Sitka Area Office at 907-747-6688, the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882, or visit the following webpage for lingcod harvest information by fishery and area: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.lingcod_fishery_update.

Federal rockfish landing requirements

Federal regulations require that the operator of a federally permitted catcher vessel using hook and line, pot, or jig gear in the EEZ of the Gulf of Alaska retain and land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish or halibut. The maximum commerce allowance (MCA) for rockfish is 15% in aggregate, of which 5% can be yelloweye rockfish in all areas, except in the Southeast Outside District of the Gulf of Alaska where the MCA for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) species is limited to 10% of the aggregate round weight of the target species. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish [5 AAC 39.975 (34)].

Rockfish taken in federal waters must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket, and rockfish in excess of bycatch allowances shall be reported as bycatch overage. Rockfish overage from federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce. For more information, refer to: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-119-fmp-groundfish-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-and-amendment-107-fmp>.

Rockfish possession and landing requirements (5 AAC 28.171)

In state waters, a vessel or CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken, including thornyheads. All rockfish retained in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of rockfish in excess of bycatch limits taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.

Groundfish bycatch allowances for the directed lingcod fishery (5 AAC 28.070)

A vessel or CFEC permit holder who is directed fishing for lingcod may retain and sell the bycatch according to the percentages shown in the table below. The amount of bycatch that may be sold is based on the round weight of lingcod and bycatch species or species group. For information on bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA enforcement at 907-747-6940 (Sitka), 907-586-7225 (Juneau), 907-772-2285 (Petersburg), or 907-247-5804 (Ketchikan).

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR ¹ in aggregate
Pacific cod	20%
Spiny Dogfish	20%
Skates	5% in aggregate
Sablefish	0%, no retention
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate

¹ State and federal waters of Southeast Outside Subdistrict: EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC; also IBS state waters (0-3 nm). In federal waters (3-200 nm) of IBS, the MCA for rockfish is 15% in aggregate, of which 5% can be yelloweye.

Lingcod Management Areas

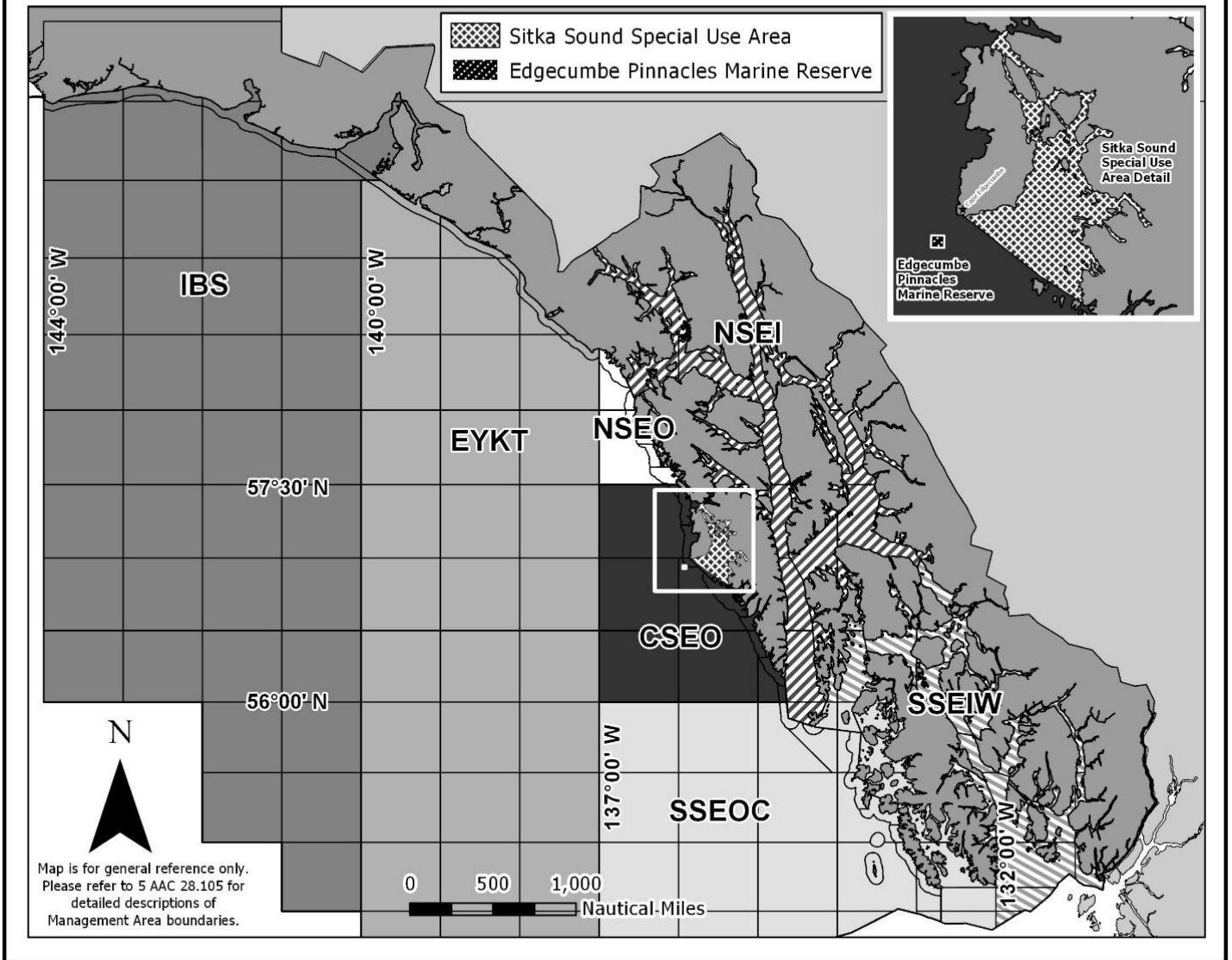


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska commercial lingcod management areas. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105. This map is for general information purposes only.

Advisory announcement website: <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			