

HARVEST OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT WHEN COMMERCIAL TROLLING

For the detailed information on Southeast Alaska Groundfish regulations, refer to the current *Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations* booklet available at all Southeast ADF&G area offices. Fishery status and groundfish bycatch allowances can be found in [news releases](#) issued by ADFG.

In the state waters portion of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, all groundfish incidentally taken by hand and power troll gear operated to take salmon consistent with applicable laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed with the following restrictions:

The bycatch allowance for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) is limited to 10% of the round weight of all salmon on board the vessel. All DSR in excess of 10% must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the state [5 AAC 28.171 (a)]. The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, rosethorn, copper, china, and tiger rockfish. DSR bycatch overages must be reported on fish tickets but may be kept for a person's own use. The DSR bycatch allowance in federal waters is 10% as well. DSR overage from federal waters may not be sold or enter commerce.

The bycatch allowance for spiny dogfish in state waters is limited to 35%.

Lingcod may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery only from May 16 through November 30 [5AAC 28.113 (c)].

Lingcod must measure at least 27 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail.

- Lingcod bycatch in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section is limited to 5% (round weight) of the round weight of salmon on board. Lingcod bycatch in the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section is limited to 15%. Lingcod bycatch in the other management areas may be retained in unlimited amounts until area allocations are taken or November 30, whichever occurs first. The Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) is closed to troll lingcod bycatch for the remainder of 2010. Lingcod bycatch allowances are set by the Department and are consistent throughout a management area in both state and federal waters (Figure 8).

- The retention of lingcod is prohibited in the troll fishery in the waters of Sitka Sound [5AAC 28.150(a)]. The Sitka Sound closure area is defined as the waters 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. (Figure 8).

- Lingcod and other 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. [5AAC 28.150(c)]

Lingcod harvest allocations for the troll fishery are set by Lingcod Management Area (Figure 8) and area closures will occur as allocations are taken. In-season closures will be announced by news release and marine radio broadcast by the U.S. Coast Guard and National Weather Service. For updates on lingcod area closures, call the Groundfish Hotline at 747-4882 or contact the Groundfish staff in Sitka at 747-6688.

Vessels trolling for salmon in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska that retain groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. For information on FFP requirements and bycatch allowances in federal waters contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at 586-7225 (Juneau), 747-6940 (Sitka), 772-2285 (Petersburg), or 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

Other regulations:

Halibut incidentally taken during an open commercial halibut season by power and hand troll gear being operated for salmon consistent with applicable state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed [5AAC 28.133 (c)]. Commercial halibut may be legally retained only by IFQ permit holders during the open season for halibut, March 6–November 15, 2010. Trollers making an IFQ halibut landing of 500 lbs or less of IFQ weight as determined pursuant to 50 CFR 679.42(h) are exempted from the 3-hour Prior Notice of Landing (PNOL) if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon [50 CFR 679.5(l)(1)(iv)(A)]. Halibut taken incidentally during the troll fishery shall be reported on a fish ticket using the CFEC salmon permit. For information on regulations and landing requirements for the federal IFQ halibut fishery contact the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Trollers are allowed to longline for groundfish and troll for salmon on the same trip as long as fish are not onboard the vessel in an area closed to commercial fishing or closed to retention of that species and the fisher has both a commercial salmon permit and the appropriate commercial longline permit.

A vessel may not participate in a directed fishery for groundfish with dinglebar troll or mechanical jig gear if they have commercial caught salmon on board. A vessel fishing for groundfish with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter “D” and a vessel fishing for groundfish with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter “M” at all times when fishing with or transporting fish taken with dinglebar troll gear or mechanical jigging machines [5AAC 28.135 (a)(4)]. A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying one of these letters when the vessel is being used to fish for salmon [5AAC 28.135 (c)].

(Source: ADFG [2010 Summer Troll Mgmt Plan](#))