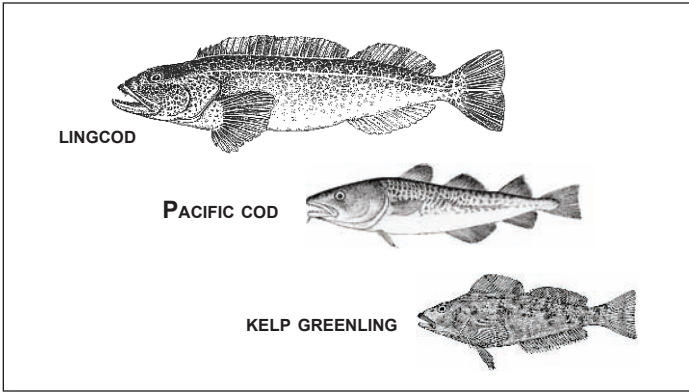


LINGCOD • GREENLING • COD



Lingcod inhabit waters throughout Southeast Alaska; however, they are generally abundant along the outer coast, and less common in our “Inside” waters. In 2000, concerns over lingcod abundance in Southeast Alaska prompted the Alaska Board of Fisheries to adopt a management plan for sport and commercial fisheries that harvest lingcod. Under the plan, guideline harvest levels (GHL’s) were created for lingcod in seven areas within Southeast Alaska.

Accurate identification of all sport-caught fish species is important for sound management. This is especially true for anglers who may be surveyed for their recreational fishing activity through ADF&G’s Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) program.



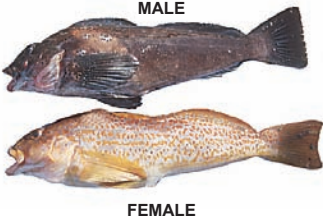
Lingcod, which are in the greenling family, can be identified by their elongated body shape, large head and mouth, and jaws containing large canine teeth interspersed with smaller teeth.

They have a long single dorsal fin that is notched past the middle of its length. The forward portion of the dorsal fin bears rigid spines. Lingcod have dark mottling on their back and sides that can be brown, gray, green or orange—depending on their environment, and they can grow to lengths of 5 feet.



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Kelp greenling have a similarly long single dorsal fin, notched in the middle of its length, but they lack the rigid spines found on lingcod dorsal fins. Male kelp greenling have irregular blue spots on and near their heads; females are various shades of golden yellow on their head and fins. Kelp greenling grow only to about 21 inches in length.



Pacific cod (pictured), tomcod and pollock all have three distinct dorsal fins and two anal fins, no rigid spines on their fins, and small teeth. Pacific cod and tomcod have a prominent “barbel” beneath their chin; on pollock, however, it is very small or absent. Pacific cod are typically under 32 inches; Pacific tomcod are typically under 20 inches, and pollock are typically under 30 inches.

