



Advisory Announcement
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2020 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY UPDATE

Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska directed black rockfish fishery.

Federal rockfish landing requirements

Effective March 23, 2020, federal regulations require that the operator of a federally-permitted catcher vessel using hook and line, pot, or jig gear in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Alaska **retain and land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish or halibut**. Vessels participating in the directed black rockfish fishery in the EEZ are required to retain and land all rockfish; therefore, they must possess a Federal Fisheries Permit.

For more information, refer to: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-119-fmp-groundfish-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-and-amendment-107-fmp>.

Groundfish bycatch allowances for the directed black rockfish fishery

Allowable bycatch limits for rockfish have been adjusted to facilitate consistency between state and federal regulations and are **effective for state waters and state managed groundfish taken in federal waters on March 14, 2020** (5 AAC 28.070 (b)). All rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Rockfish bycatch overage from state waters, in excess of legal limits, may be retained for personal use or sold; however, all proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch must be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Excess rockfish bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but may not enter commerce. The demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish.

A permit holder who is directed fishing for black rockfish in waters of Alaska (0–3 nm) in the Southeast District may retain and sell the following bycatch percentages, based on the round weight of black rockfish on board. For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

BYCATCH SPECIES	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0–3 NM)
Rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 10% may be DSR Full retention required for DSR¹ and black rockfish²
Lingcod ³	20% in CSEO and SSEOC in state and federal waters 0% in IBS, EYKT, and NSEO
Pacific cod	20%
Spiny Dogfish	20%
Sablefish	0%, no retention
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate

¹ Regulations also apply in Federal waters of Southeast Outside Subdistrict

² State and Federal waters

³ May 16–November 30 or until area lingcod allocations are taken; the minimum size limit is 27” tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5” front of dorsal fin to tip of tail; mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear only.

Advisory Announcement website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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