Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

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EAST YAKUTAT SECTION DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the directed fishery for lingcod will close in the entire East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, including the Fairweather Grounds, at 11:59 p.m., Monday, May 18, 2020. The 2020 directed lingcod fishery guideline harvest level (GHL) for the EYKT Section is 111,000 round pounds. Based on reports from the grounds and catch rates in recent years, the department anticipates that the 16 vessels participating in the fishery will have taken the GHL by the time of the closure.

The directed lingcod fishery remains open in the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector. Lingcod catches will be closely monitored, and fishermen should expect additional area closures on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and the National Weather Service marine broadcast.

Updates of area closures for all lingcod fisheries are available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882. For additional information on the directed lingcod fishery, refer to the ADF&G advisory announcement issued on March 23, 2020.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <u>https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/</u>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0620.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255