Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

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NORTHERN SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (NSEO) 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 Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section at 1:00 pm, Monday, June 15, 2020. The 2020 directed lingcod fishery guideline harvest level (GHL) for the NSEO area is 17,200 round pounds. Based on reports from the grounds and harvest data to date, the department anticipates that the GHL will be taken by the time of the closure.

The directed lingcod fishery remains open in the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), 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, 17, and 18, 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 1G0820.

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

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