Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

Sitka Area Office 304 Lake Street, Room 103 Sitka, AK 99835



Alaska Department of Fish and Game Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

> PO Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526 www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement For Immediate Release: July 23, 2021 CONTACT: Jacob Metzger Region I Groundfish Biologist jacob.metzger@alaska.gov (907) 747-6701

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (NSEO) SECTION LINGCOD LONGLINE BYCATCH CLOSURE

The retention of lingcod bycatch in the commercial longline fisheries will close in the entire Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section at 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 24, 2021. The 10,800 lb lingcod guideline harvest level (GHL) for NSEO longline fisheries is estimated to be taken at the time of closure.

The lingcod bycatch season remains open for longline fisheries (excluding sablefish) of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area in the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector. The Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) is also closed to the retention of lingcod bycatch in the commercial longline fisheries.

Updates of area closures for all bycatch lingcod fisheries are available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882. 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 marine broadcast, and the National Weather Service marine broadcast.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <u>https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/</u>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0821.

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		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255