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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: June 21, 2024*

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### Prince William Sound Area Lingcod Season Opens Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-09-24

The commercial season for the Prince William Sound Area (PWSA) directed lingcod fishery **will open July 1** and close December 31, or earlier by emergency order. Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are 7,300 pounds for the Inside District and 25,300 pounds for the Outside District, including adjacent federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

To participate in the directed lingcod fishery, fishers must possess a valid gear-appropriate Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) lingcod permit card and a **Prince William Sound Area 2024 Lingcod Registration**. Groundfish registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Homer, and Cordova. Participants can register by phone/fax by contacting the Homer ADF&G office at 907-235-8191 (fax: 907-235-2448).

A 6-hour prior notice of landing is required for the PWSA directed lingcod fishery (5 AAC 28.271 (b)); participants must contact ADF&G after each directed PWS lingcod trip by telephoning (907) 226-2121 at least 6 hours prior to landing and reporting the following: 1) vessel name/ADF&G number, 2) date and location of landing, 3) estimated time of delivery, 4) buyer or processor, and 5) estimated pounds of lingcod onboard.

To help meet biological sampling objectives, Emergency Order (EO) 2-GF-E-09-24 requires **lingcod be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact** as evidence of sex. Retained lingcod must measure at least **35 inches** from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

Fishers targeting groundfish or halibut in PWSA may retain legal size lingcod as bycatch up to 20 percent of directed harvest onboard and **must retain all rockfish** and comply with rockfish trip limits. Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for the PWS directed lingcod fishery are set by Emergency Order 2-GF-E-01-24.

ADF&G management authority for lingcod extends into federal waters of the EEZ. In addition to state requirements of appropriate CFEC permit card and area registration, fishers targeting lingcod in federal waters are also required to have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP). FFP application forms are available online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-federal-fisheries-permit-and-federal-processor-permit-applications> and at National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices in Homer, Anchorage, or Seward.

**Steller Sea Lion rookery closures:** Directed fishing for all groundfish species (including lingcod) is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWSA, Seal Rocks and Wooded Island (Fish Island). Reference <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm> for specific descriptions and regulatory language or contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780. For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer at (907) 235-8191.

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