

Southeast Alaska/Yakutat Commercial Groundfish Fisheries

Alaska Board of Fisheries

January 28–February 9, 2025 Ketchikan, Alaska

RC 3 – Tab 18



Rhea Ehresmann

Groundfish Project Leader

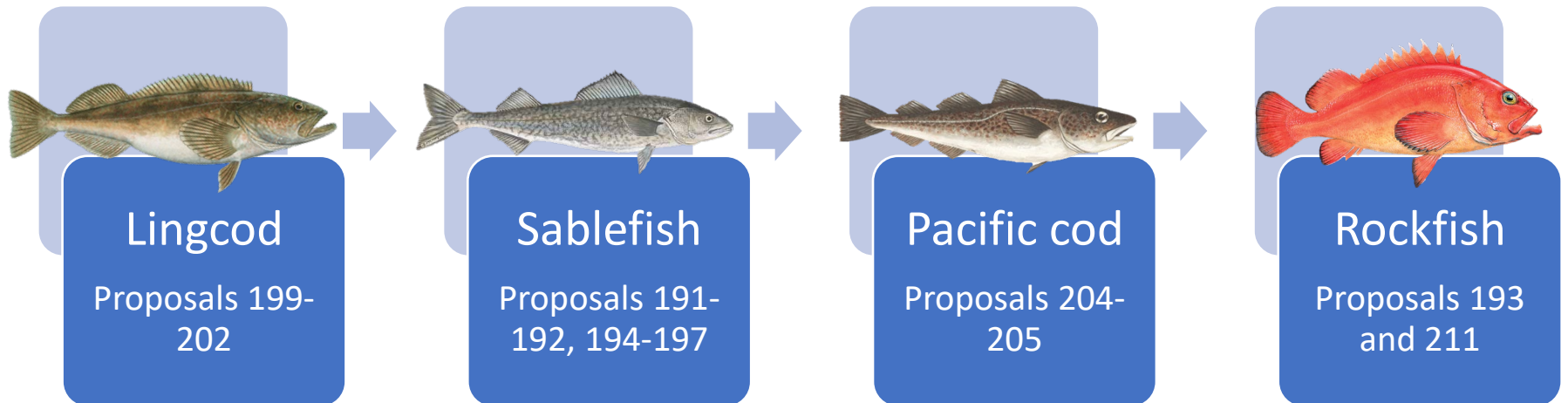
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Overview

1) Background

- Commercial groundfish fisheries in Southeast
- Management areas of Southeast

2) Sections by species/fisheries with proposal review

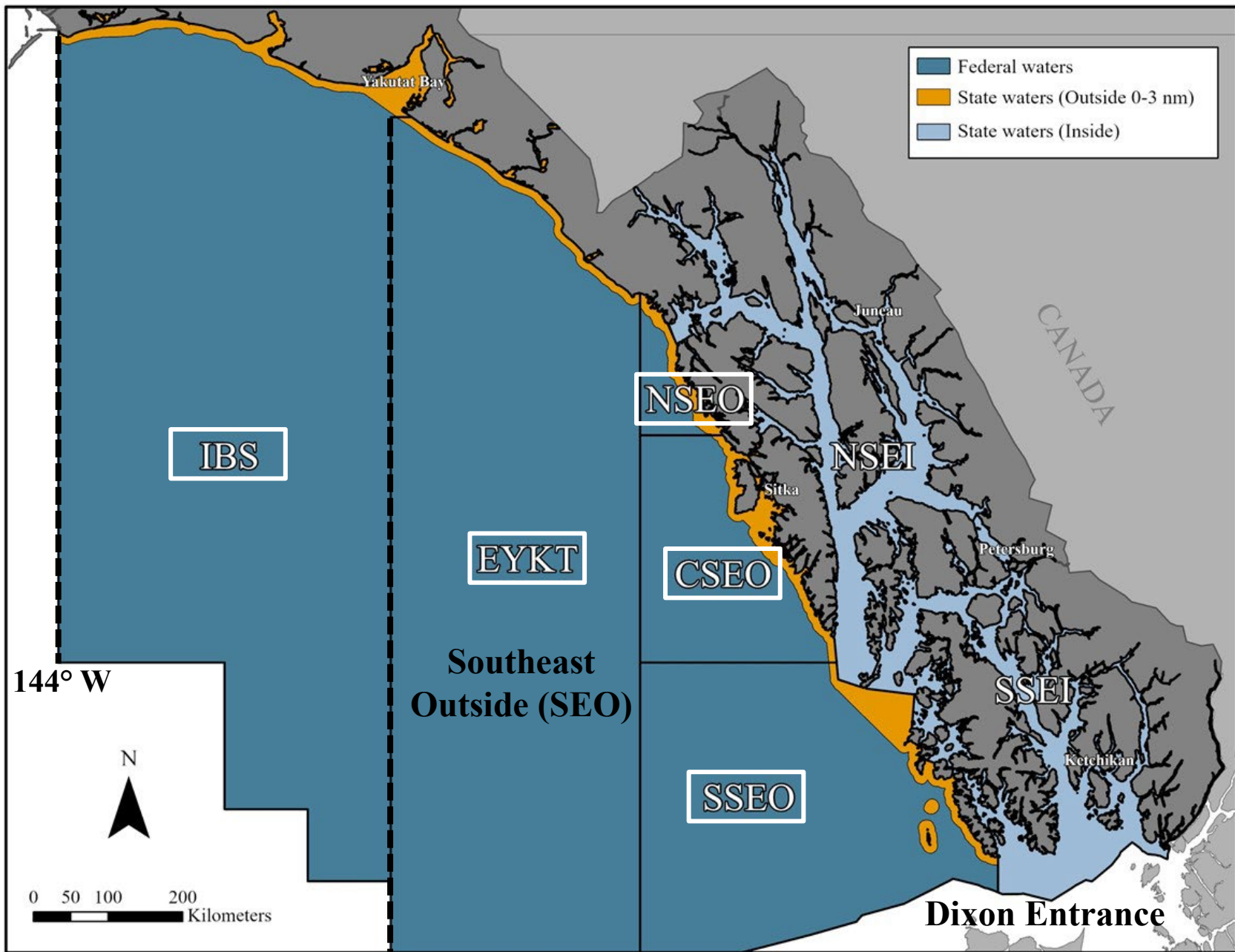


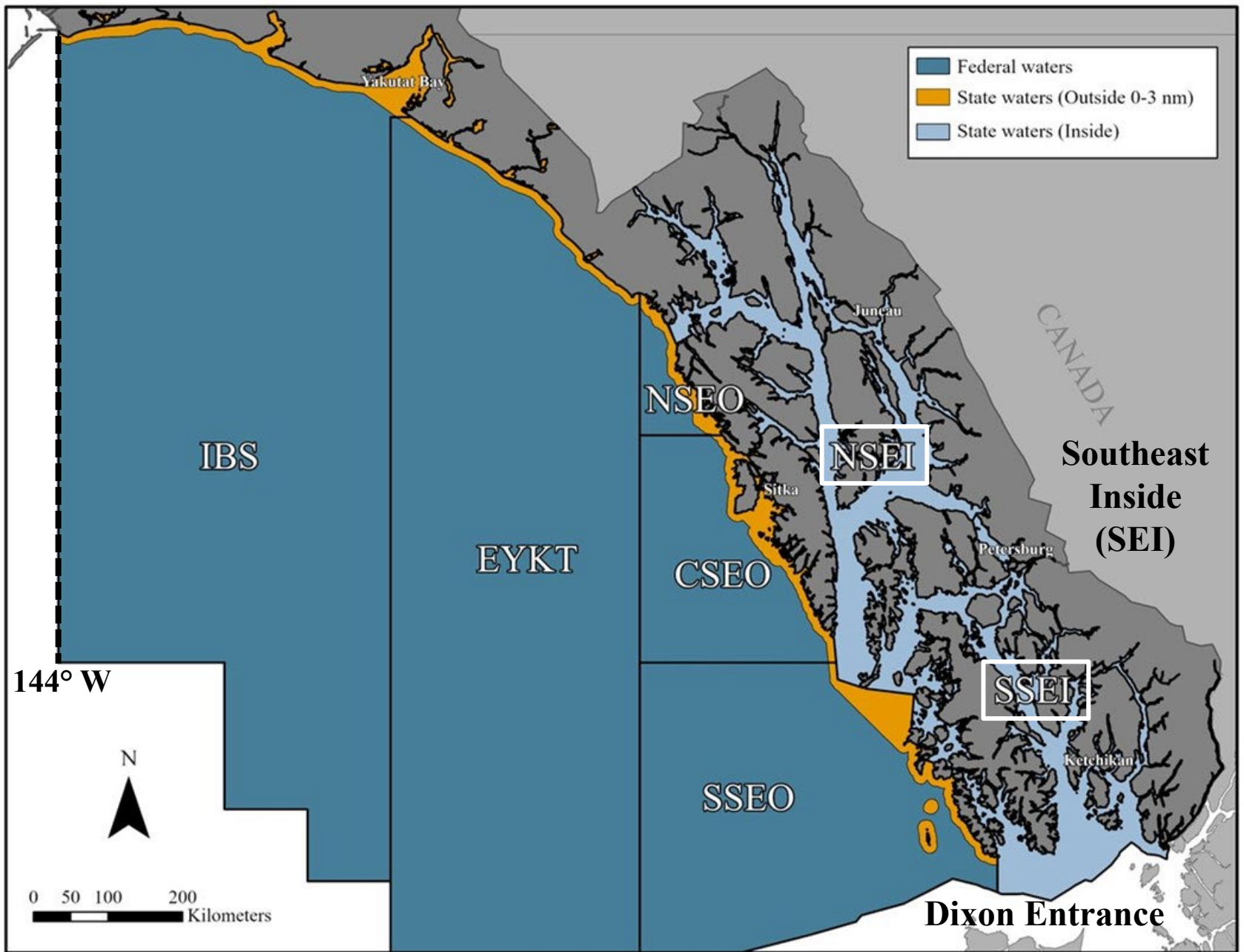
Groundfish fisheries in Southeast/Yakutat

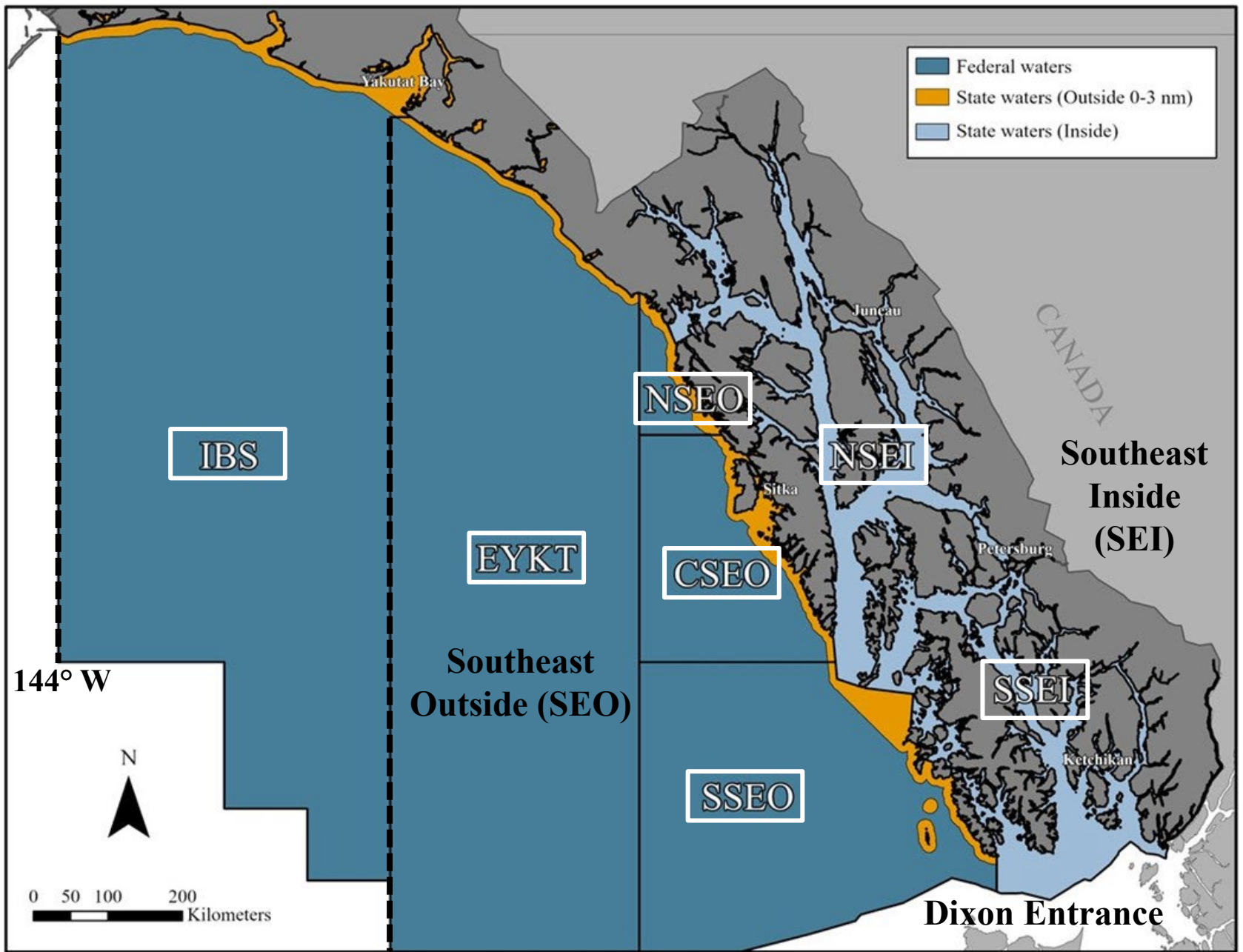
Management authority over groundfish caught in commercial directed and bycatch fisheries

- State waters
 - Lingcod
 - Sablefish
 - Pacific cod
 - Demersal shelf rockfish (DSR)
 - Black rockfish and other rockfish
 - Other groundfish (hagfish, flatfish, spiny dogfish, skates, etc.)
- Federal waters
 - Lingcod
 - DSR
 - Black/blue/dark rockfish







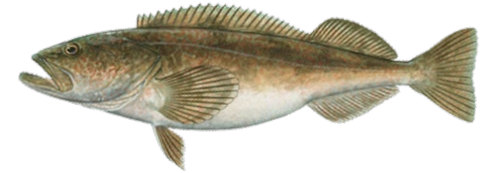


Lingcod

Regulations

- Season open May 16–November 30 to protect nest-guarding males December–early May
- Registration and logbooks required for directed fishery
- Directed fishery limited to dinglebar, hand troll, and mechanical jig gear
- Bycatch fisheries include longline, salmon hand and power troll, and jig gear
- Legal size: 27 inches from snout to tail





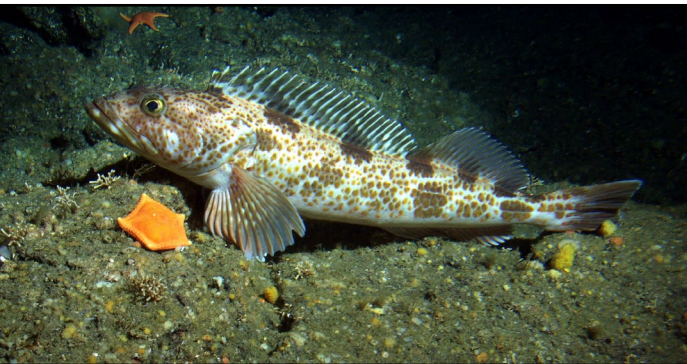
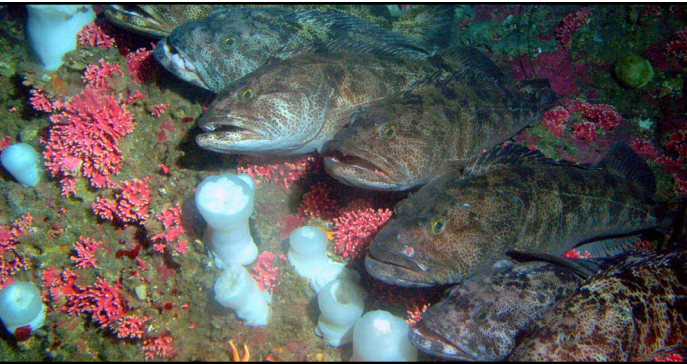
Lingcod

Stock assessment

- No formal assessment
- Collect biological data and fishery data

Management plan

- Revised in 2000
- Guideline Harvest Range (GHR; currently managed to upper end)
- Quota allocation among users by area
 - Directed fishery
 - Salmon troll, longline, jig bycatch fisheries
 - Sport fishery

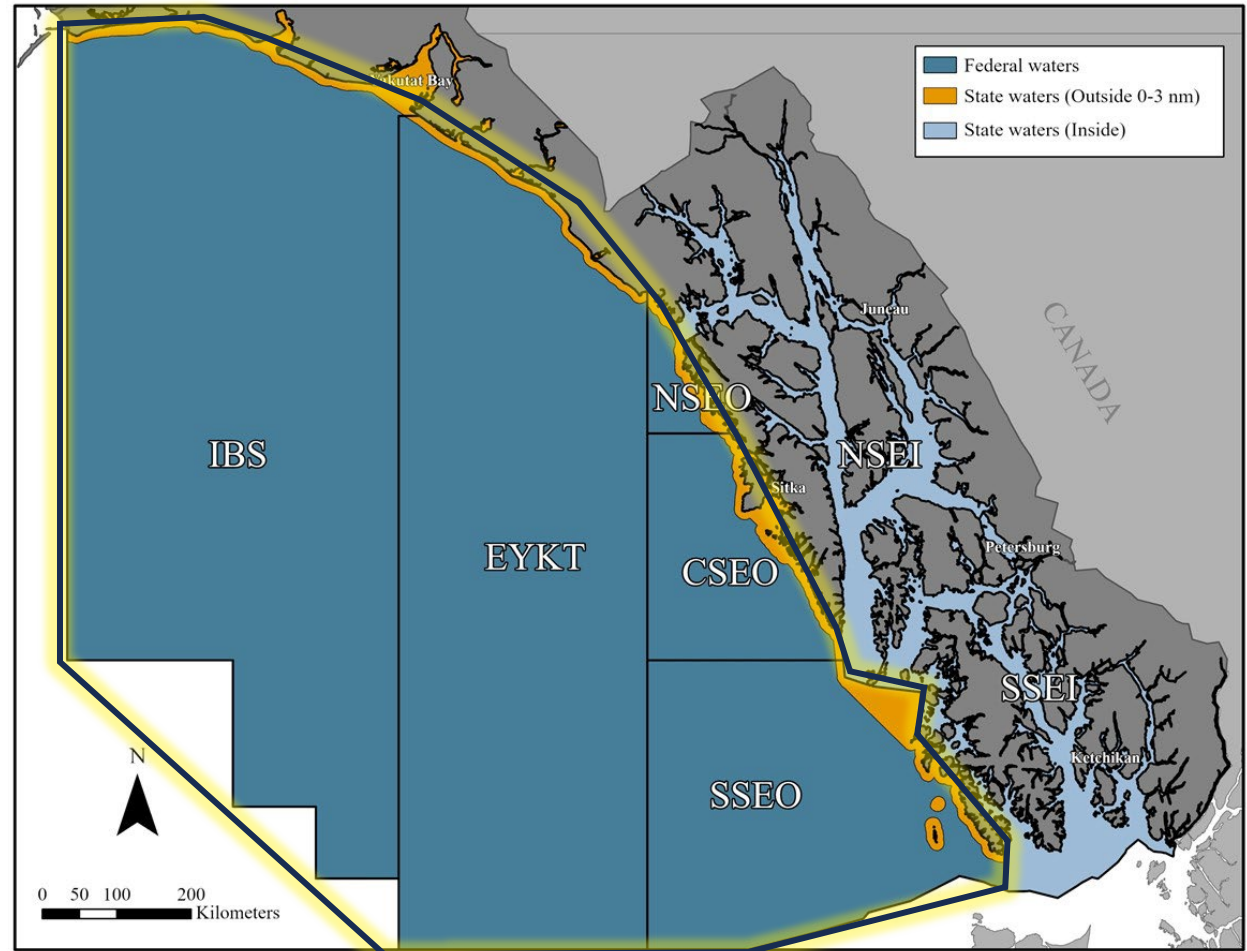


Lingcod



Directed Fishery

- Only in Southeast outside waters
- Best fishing grounds are ~40 miles offshore
- Fast-paced, derby style closing after 48-72 hours



Lingcod

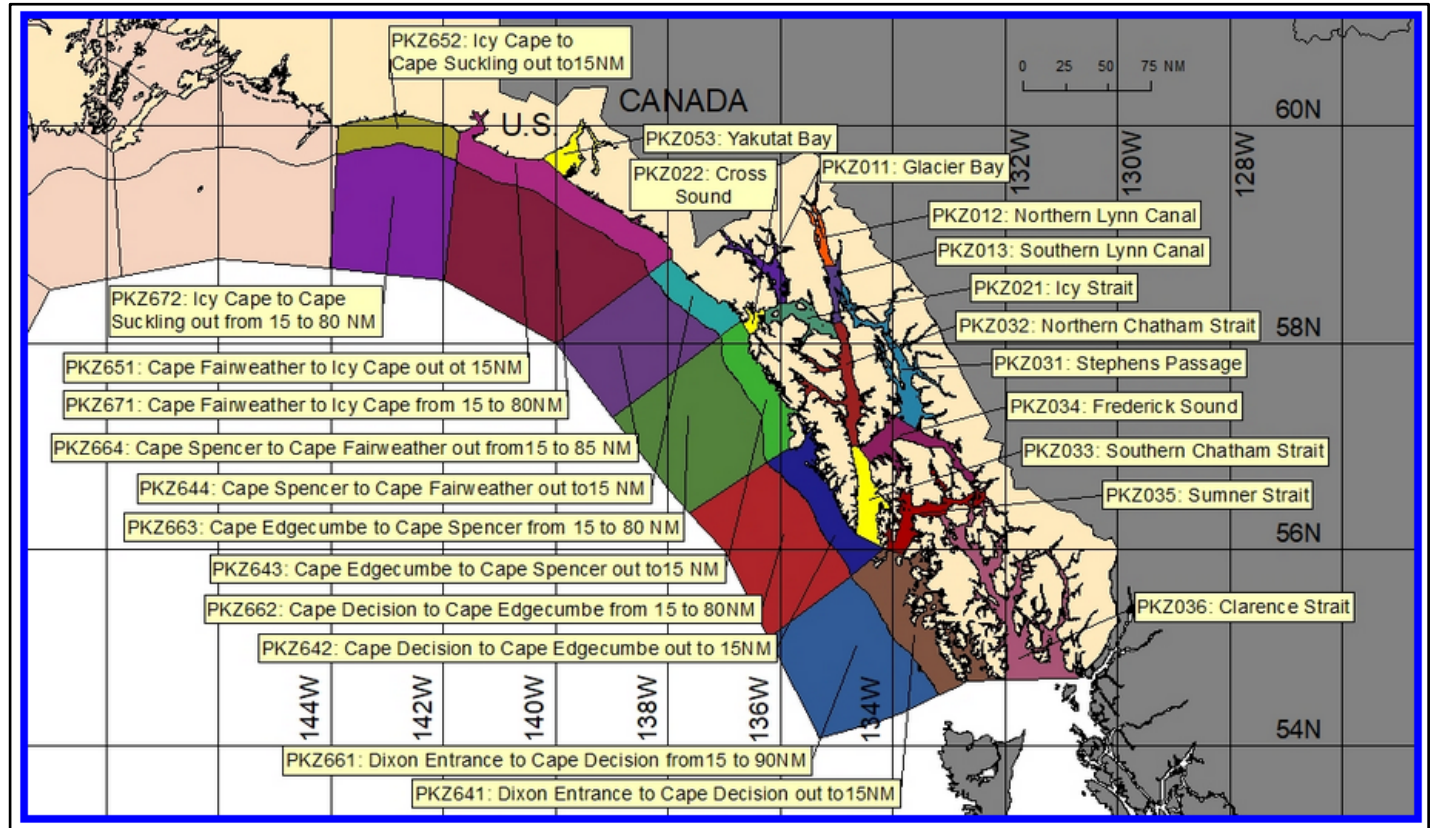


Proposal 199: delay the opening date of the directed lingcod and DSR fisheries if weather forecast meets gale warning (35 kts) or higher

Openings set in regulation

Delay by 24-hr increments

Similar weather delays used in SE king and Tanner crab fisheries



Lingcod



Proposal 200: adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries

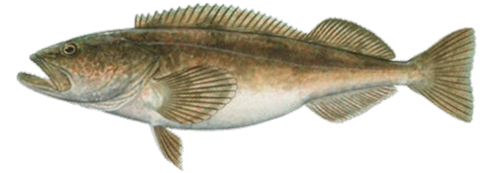
Report effort and harvest regularly

High catch rates of ~45,000 lb/day or 3,000 lb/hr

Reporting requirements required in SE shrimp/golden king crab and other statewide fisheries



Lingcod



Proposal 201: clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements for groundfish and salmon troll fisheries

No full-retention requirements

Lingcod over bycatch allowances must be released at sea

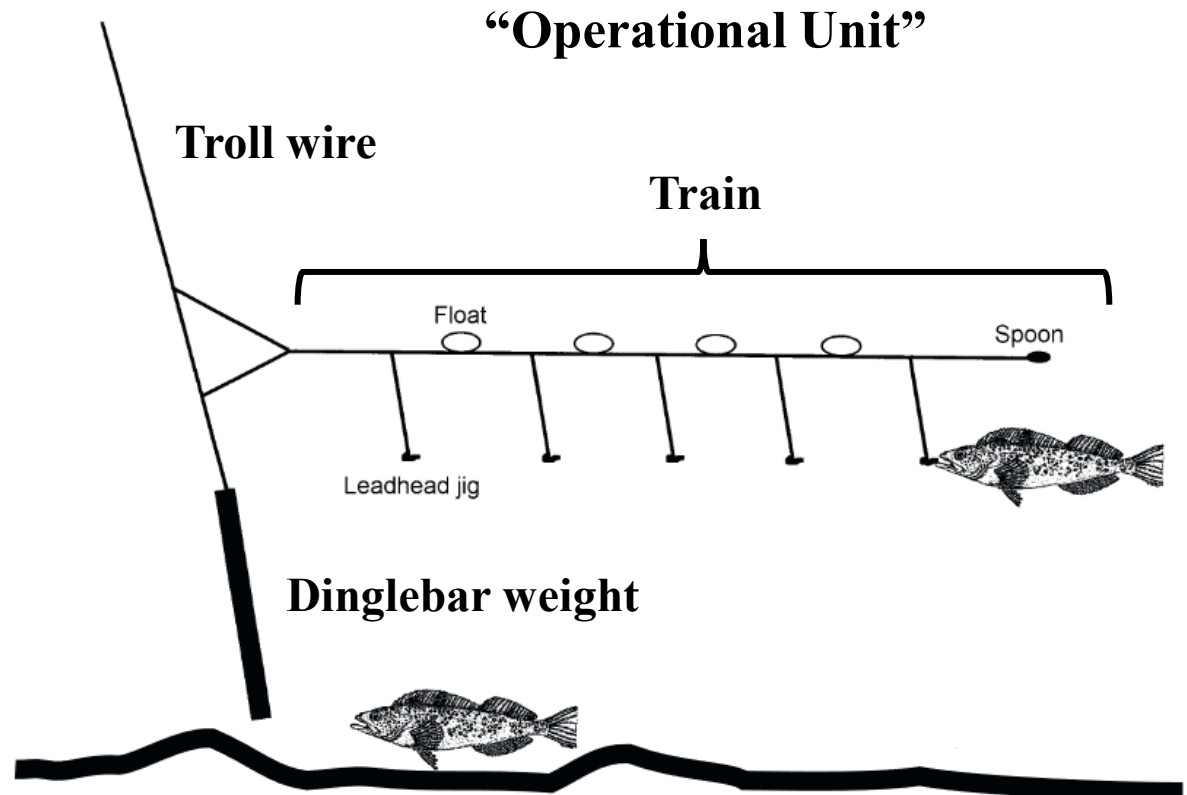
Reduce violations and increase lingcod released alive at sea



Lingcod



Proposal 202: clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the commercial directed lingcod fishery

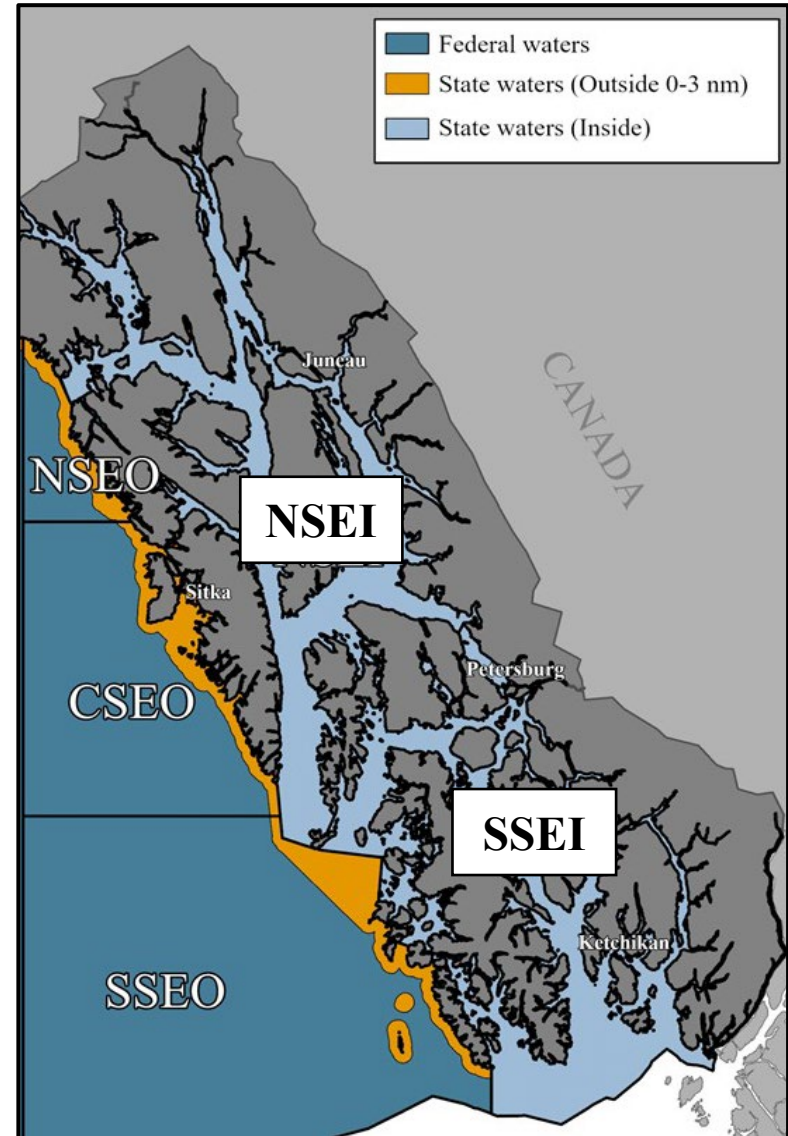




Sablefish

Two state-managed sablefish fisheries:

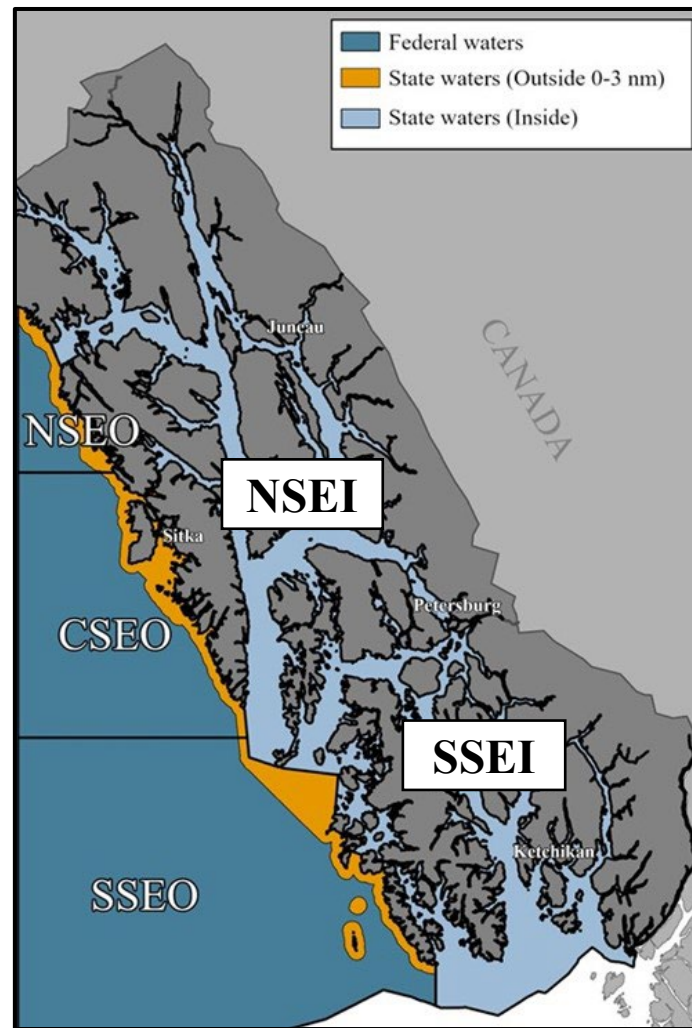
- Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict – “Chatham Strait”
- Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict – “Clarence Strait”





Sablefish fisheries

	NSEI	SSEI
Registration and logbooks	Yes	Yes
Gear	Longline/pot	Longline/pot
Stock assessment	Catch-at-age	None
Tagging survey, prior to fishery	Yes	No
Longline survey, prior to fishery	Yes	Yes
Fishery data	Catch, CPUE, biological	Catch, CPUE, biological
Permit holders	73	22
Season length	Aug 15-Nov 15	June 1-Nov 15





Sablefish fisheries

Chatham and Clarence longline survey dates occur prior to fishery opening

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NSEI Chatham survey												
NSEI Chatham fishery												
SSEI Clarence survey												
SSEI Clarence fishery												



Sablefish fisheries

Proposal 195: lengthen the SSEI fishery season to open with the federal Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish fishery opening mid-March and closing in early December

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NSEI Chatham survey												
NSEI Chatham fishery												
SSEI Clarence survey												
SSEI Clarence fishery												
Federal IFQ fishery												
Sablefish spawning												



Sablefish fisheries

Proposal 195: lengthen the SSEI fishery season to open with the federal Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish fishery opening mid-March and closing in early December

Opening fishery prior to survey may lower survey CPUE and subsequent quotas

Moving survey to February would create vessel and staff safety issues

Since 1990 survey has been conducted between April 28-May 30; historical data comparison issues



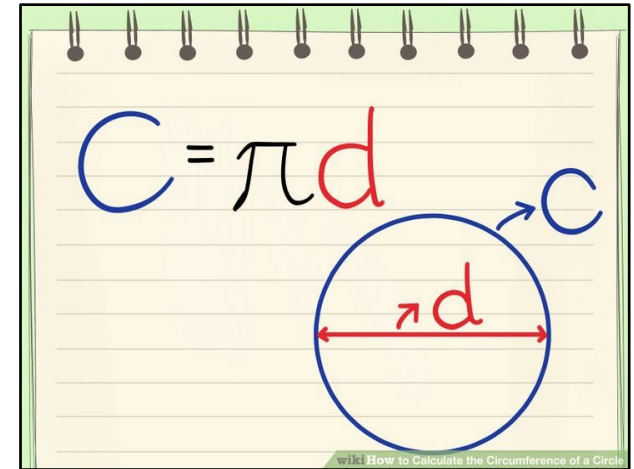


Sablefish fisheries

Current minimum inside diameter of escape rings is 3.75” in subsistence, personal use and commercial sablefish pots



Sablefish fisheries

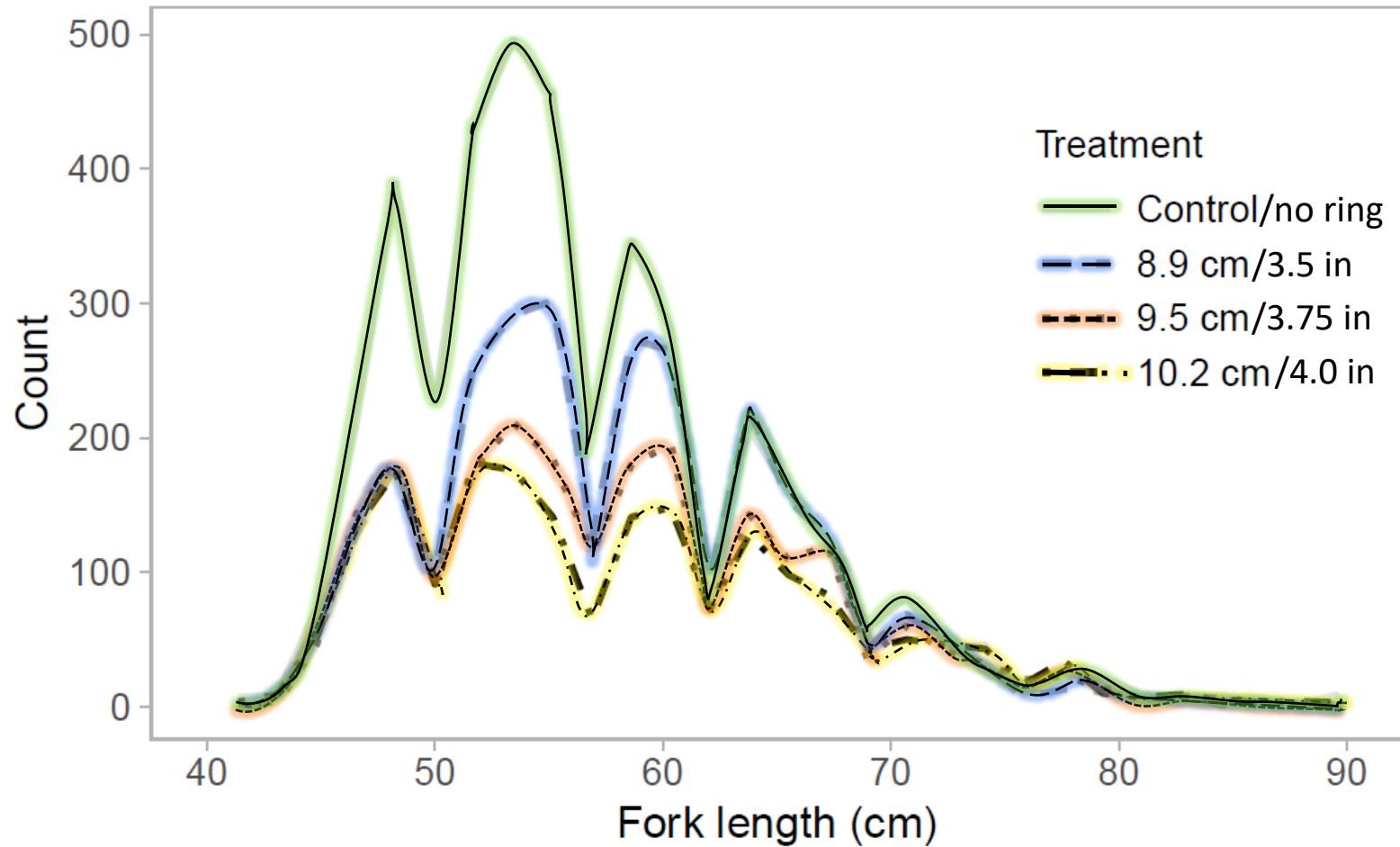


If fish diameter \geq escape ring diameter,
it's retained in the pot

Smaller escape ring = more fish in pot



Sablefish fisheries

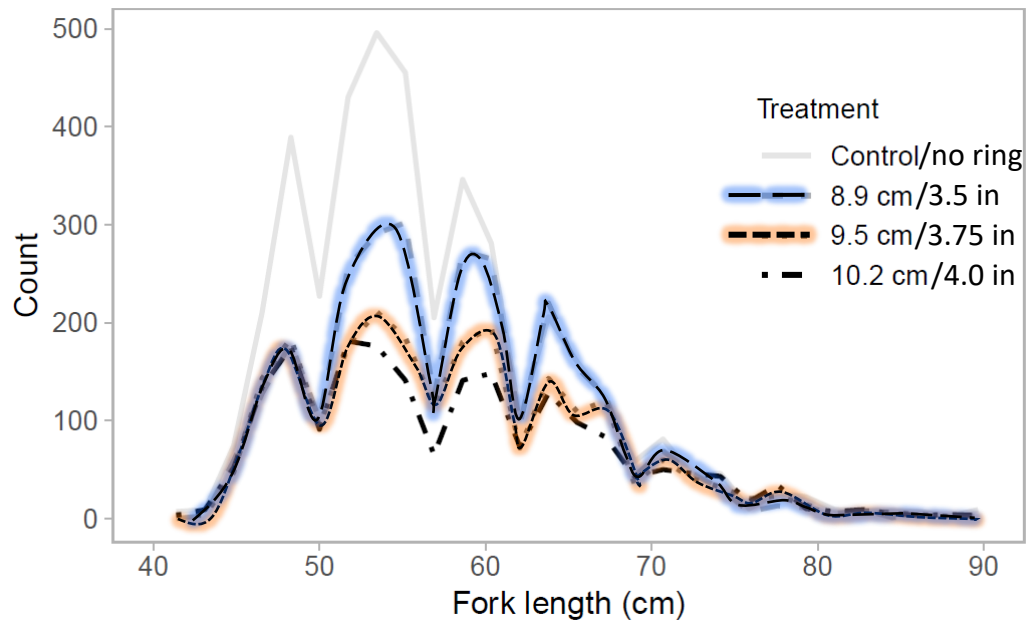


Sablefish fisheries



Proposal 194: reduce minimum inside diameter of circular escape rings from 3.75” to 3.5” in subsistence, PU, and commercial fisheries

Proposal 196: reduce minimum inside diameter of circular escape rings from 3.75” to 3.375” in commercial fisheries only



Sablefish fisheries



Proposal 197: clarify existing regulations regarding subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries in state waters

Improve separation of commercial vs personal use/subsistence fisheries

Allow enforcement to differentiate catches

Prevent commercial vessels from reporting overage as personal use/subsistence harvest





Sablefish fisheries

Proposal 191:
 amend
 logbook
 requirements
 for vessels
 fishing with
 pot and/or
 longline gear

ADF&G SABLEFISH LONGLINE • POT FISHERY LOGBOOK

PERMIT HOLDER _____ TARGET SPECIES _____ CREW SIZE (including skipper) _____
 VESSEL NAME _____ PORT OF LANDING _____ SYSTEM USED _____
 ADF&G NUMBER _____ DATE LEFT PORT _____ CONV SNAP
 SKIPPER NAME _____ DATE OF LANDING _____ AUTOBAITER

LONGLINE GEAR (Specify by set if using mixed gear)				POT GEAR			BAIT(S) USED	
HOOK SIZE	SKATE LINE LENGTH (ft)	HOOK SPACING (in)	NUMBER OF HOOKS/SKATE	POT DIMENSIONS (in) <i>length x width x height</i>	GROUNDLINE DIAMETER (in)	POT SPACING (ft)		%

SET NO.	DATE SET	TIME SET	Lat. X Long. Beginning	DATE HAULED	TIME HAULED	Lat. X Long. End	AVERAGE DEPTH (fm)	NO. SKATES or POTS SET	LOST GEAR? Y/N—Amount	COMMENTS:
										Whale depredation? Yes / No (circle one) Sperm or Orca? No. of skates impacted _____
Set Target Species _____			SPECIES AMOUNT Sablefish (retained)		SPECIES AMOUNT Sablefish (released)		SPECIES AMOUNT		SPECIES AMOUNT	
Catch amount in Numbers or Round LBS (circle)										
										Whale depredation? Yes / No (circle one) Sperm or Orca? No. of skates impacted _____
Set Target Species _____			SPECIES AMOUNT Sablefish (retained)		SPECIES AMOUNT Sablefish (released)		SPECIES AMOUNT		SPECIES AMOUNT	
Catch amount in Numbers or Round LBS (circle)										
										Whale depredation? Yes / No (circle one) Sperm or Orca? No. of skates impacted _____
Set Target Species _____			SPECIES AMOUNT Sablefish (retained)		SPECIES AMOUNT Sablefish (released)		SPECIES AMOUNT		SPECIES AMOUNT	
Catch amount in Numbers or Round LBS (circle)										

Were any sablefish discarded due to reaching PQS? Yes No If yes, Set # _____ # of Skates/Pots _____ Number or LBS (circle one) of Sablefish _____
 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____ Phone Number: _____

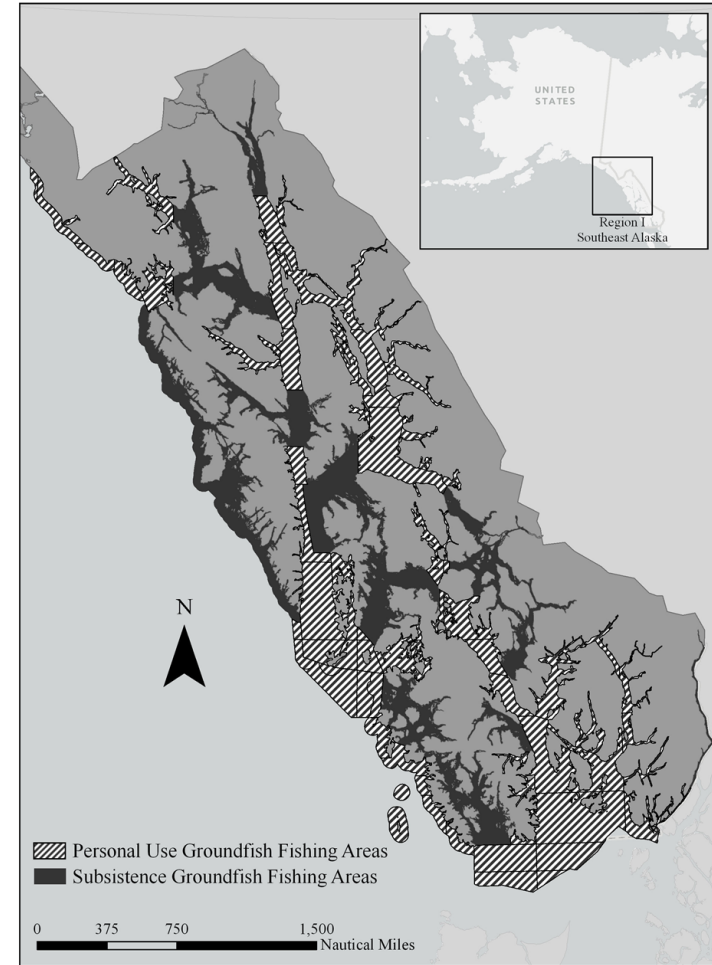
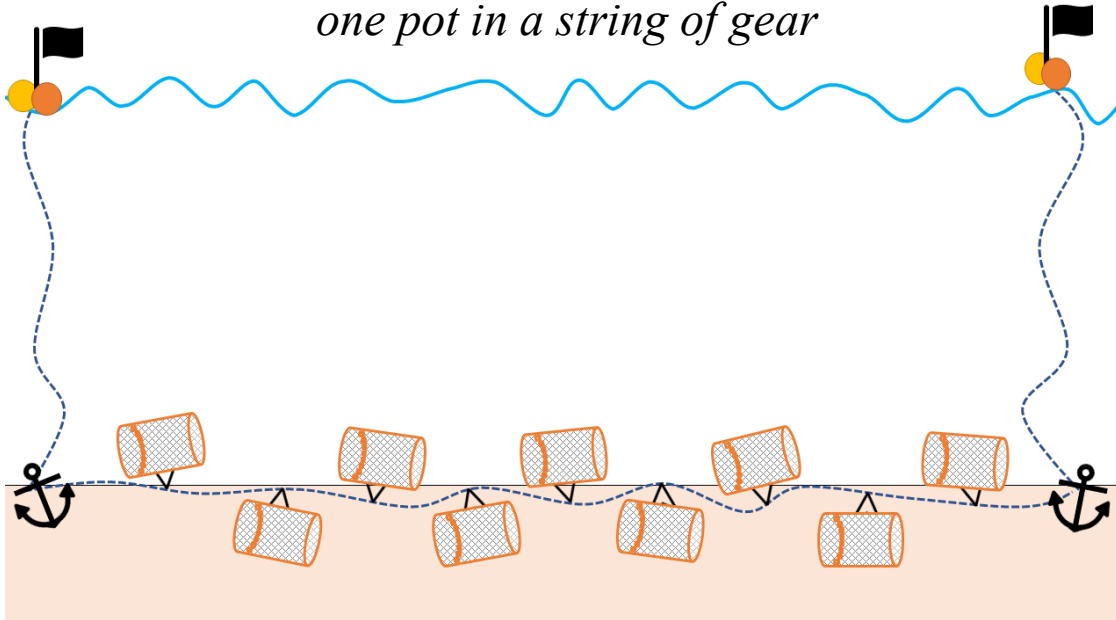
BLUE COPY MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE FISH TICKET AT THE TIME OF DELIVERY

Sablefish fisheries



Proposal 192: allow pots used in the personal use sablefish fishery to be longlined

Longlining pots = fishing more than one pot in a string of gear

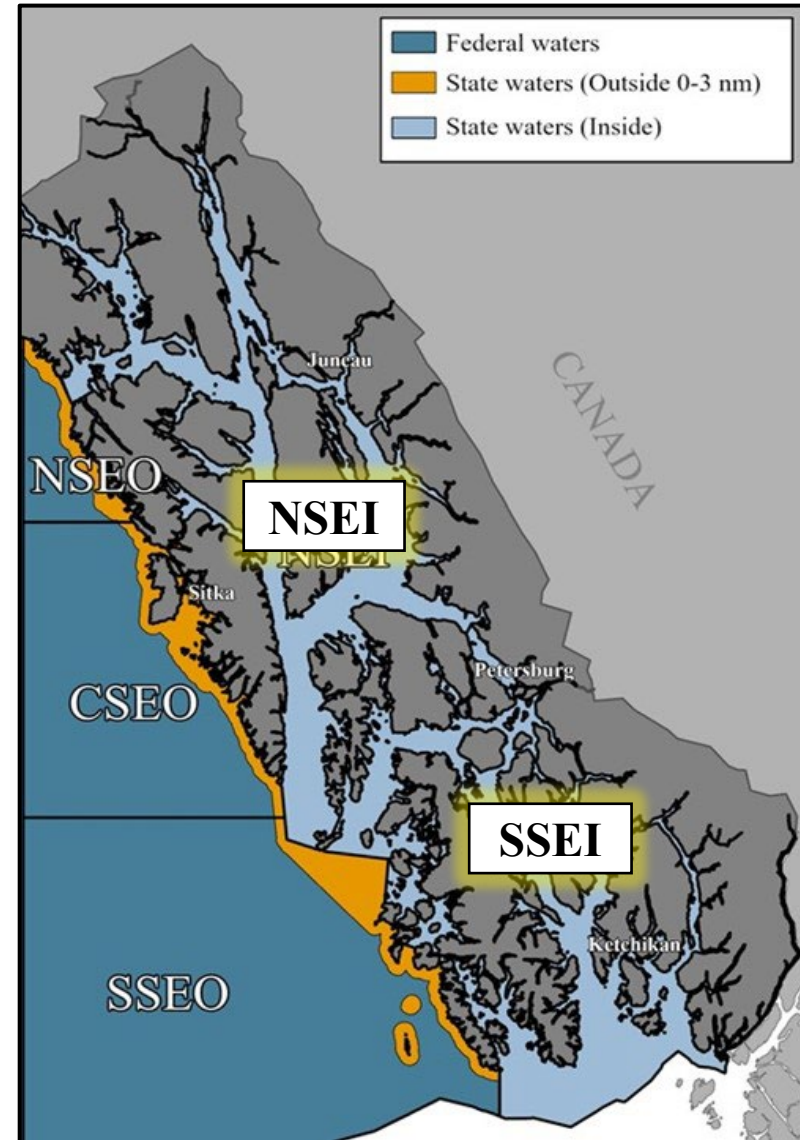




Pacific cod

Fishery

- Registration and logbooks are required
- Longline, jig, and pot gear
- Open January 1–December 31, unless closed by EO
- Low participation





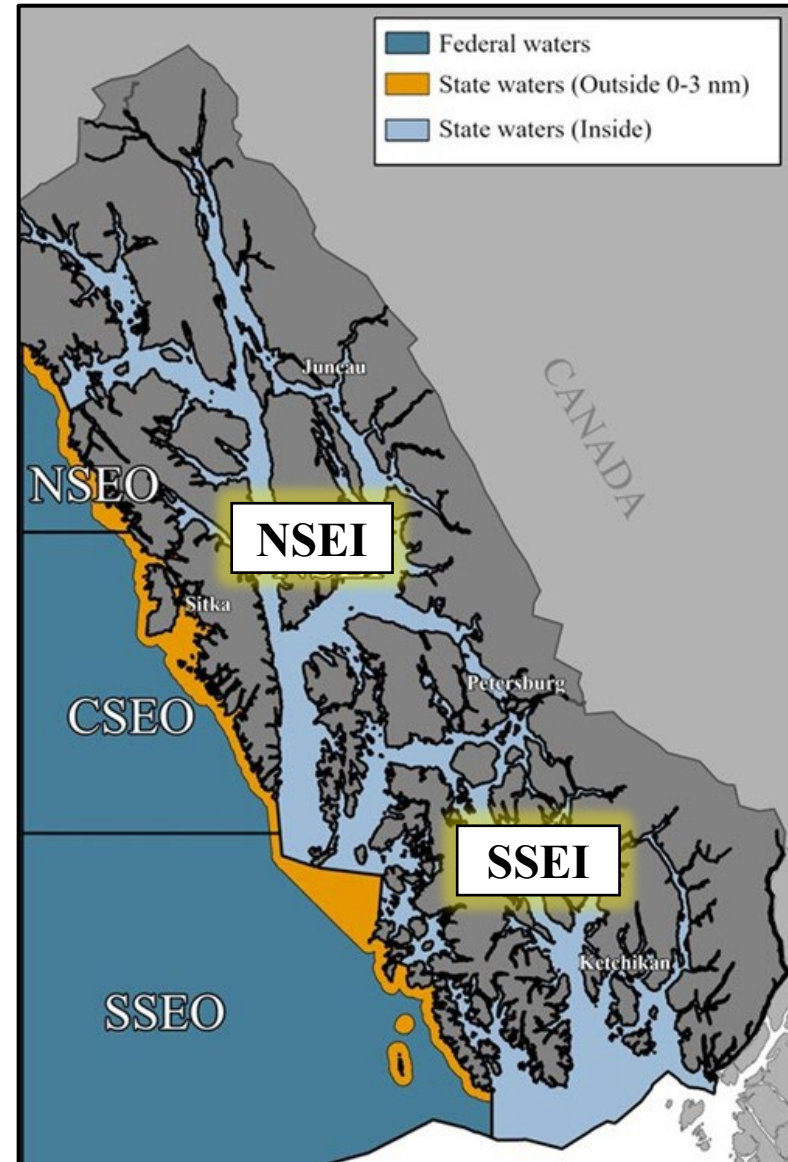
Pacific cod

Stock assessment

- No assessment available

Management plan

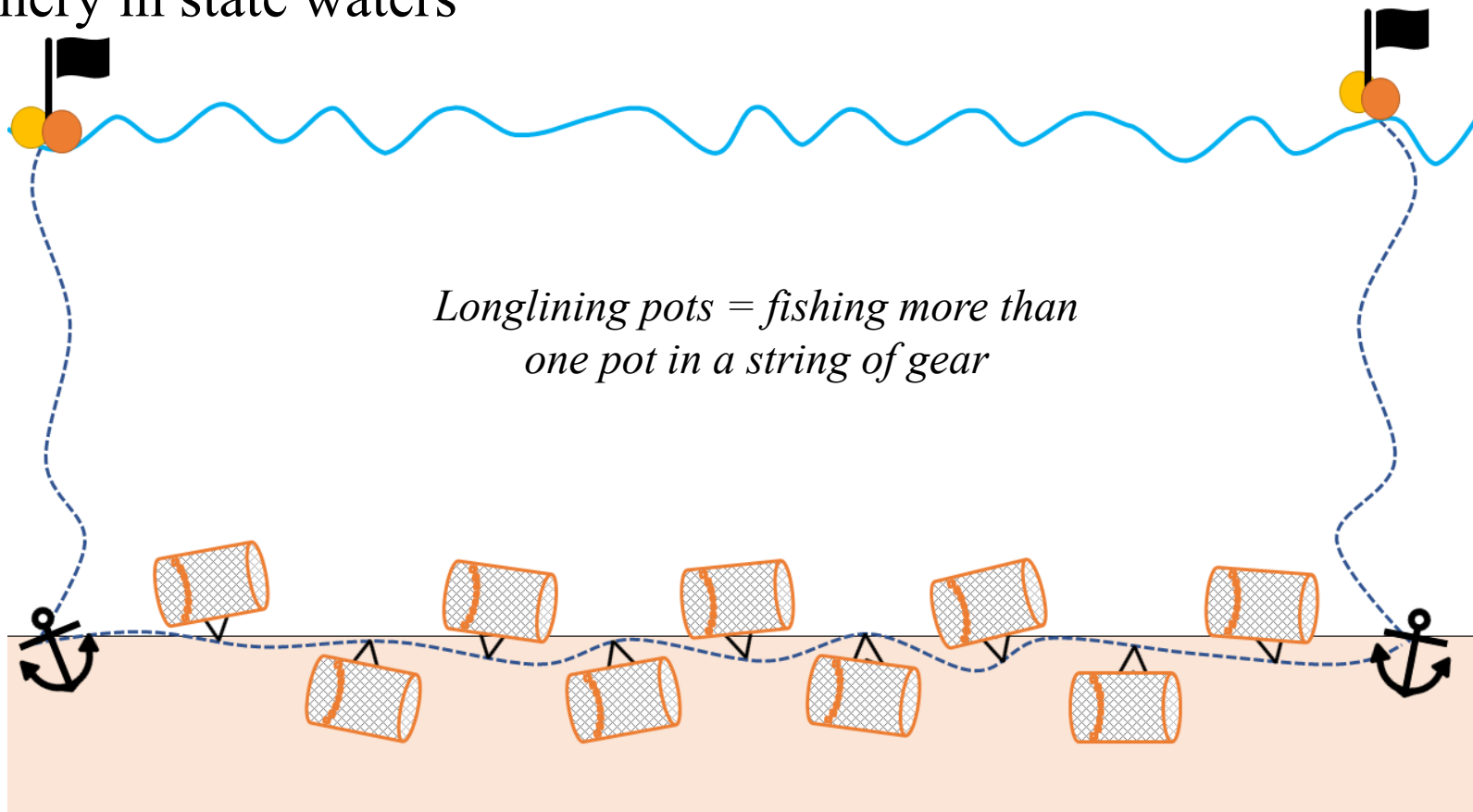
- Review of fishery CPUE and biological data
- GHR is 750,000–1,250,000 round lb
- Managed by geographic subregion
 - Prevent overfishing
 - Spawning aggregations





Pacific cod

Proposal 204: allow pots to be longlined in the directed Pacific cod fishery in state waters

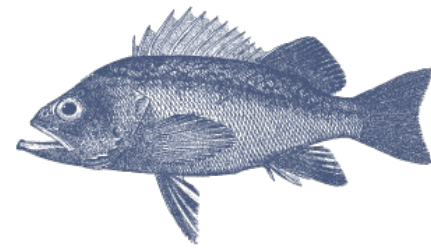




Pacific cod

Proposal 205: allow retention of Pacific cod and rockfish in pot gear in the personal use bottomfish fishery

Fishery	Current Bycatch Retention in Pots
NSEI Sablefish	✓
SSEI Sablefish	✓
Personal Use Sablefish	✗
Subsistence Sablefish	✓
Pacific cod	✓



Rockfish

Rockfish support important fisheries in Southeast

Department has management authority over several species in state and federal waters



Rockfish

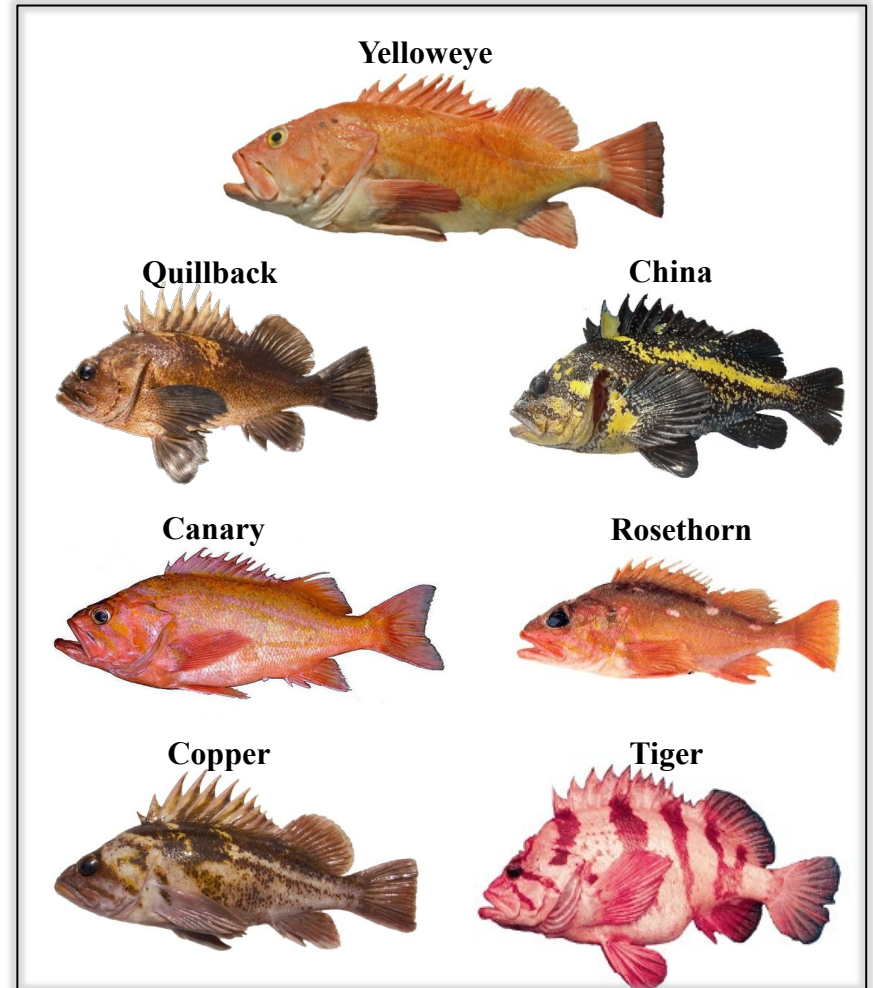
DSR Fishery

- Directed fishery closed since January 2020 in all SE waters

Stock assessment and management

- Outside waters: joint state/federal management with fisheries management plan (FMP), assessment from survey data
- Inside waters: state managed, no fishery-independent assessment
- Collect biological data

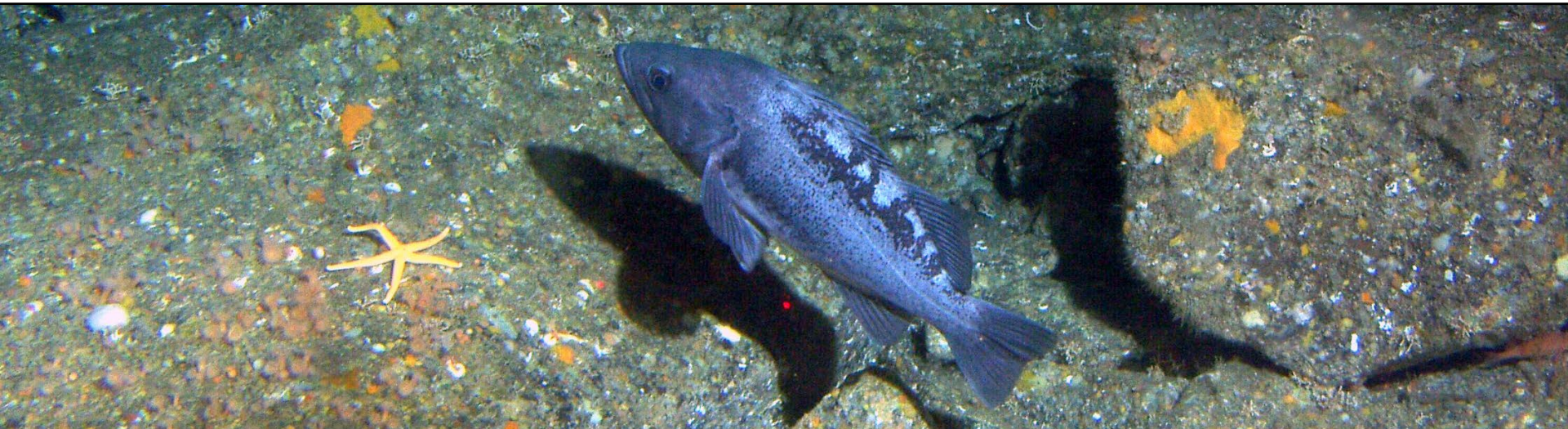
Demersal shelf rockfish (DSR)

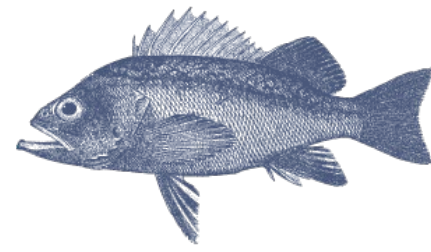


Rockfish

Black rockfish fishery

- Open year round in outside waters
- No assessment
- Collect biological data



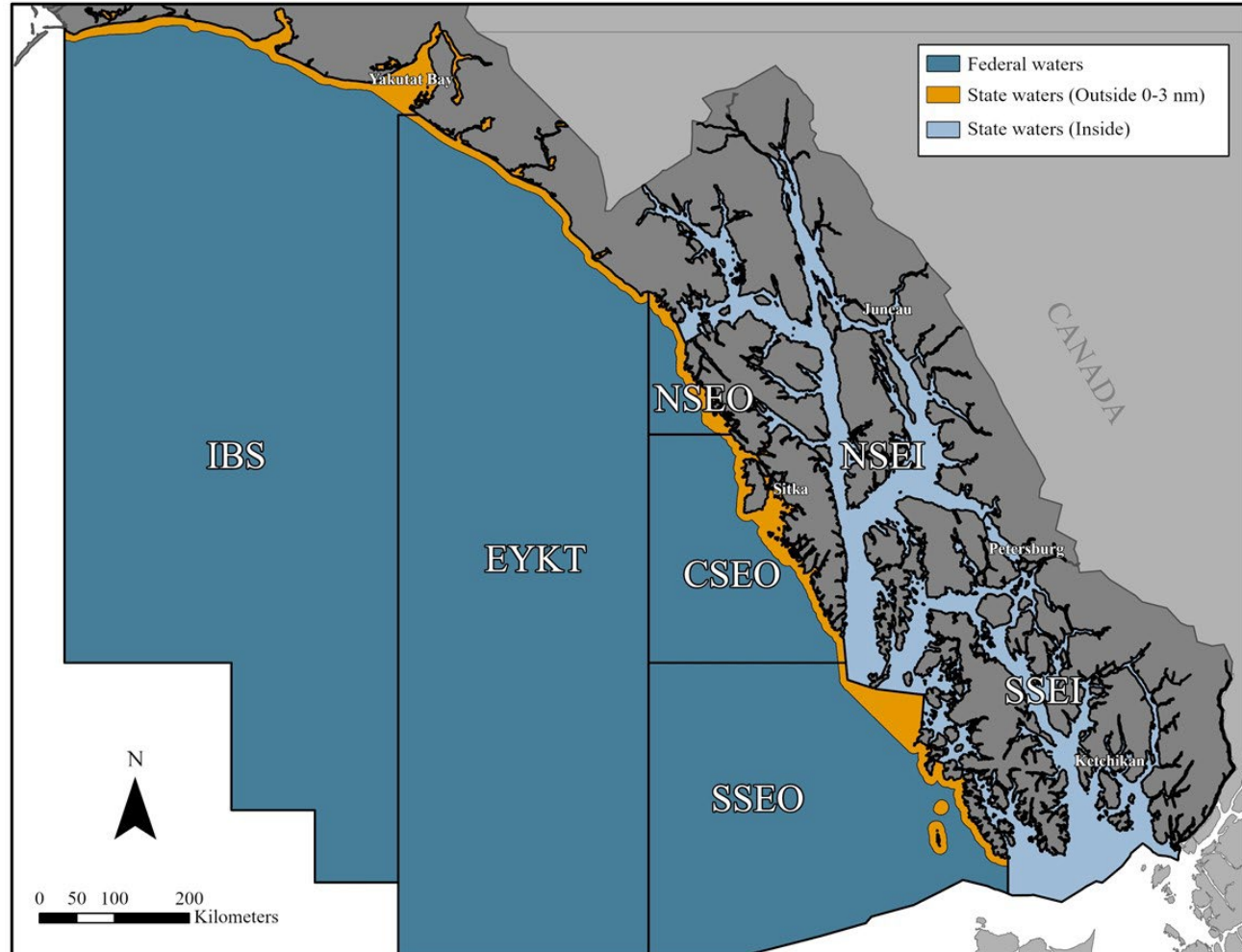


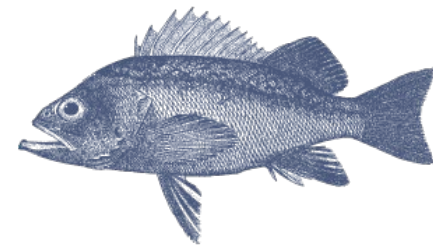
Rockfish

Bycatch fisheries

Federal: full-retention of all rockfish species since 2020

State: full-retention of all rockfish species since 2022





Rockfish

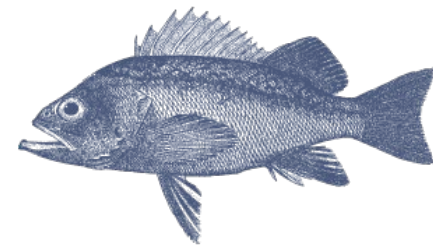
Proposal 193: allow permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut with mechanical jig and hand troll gear in state waters to release rockfish

Large numbers of rockfish, few crew

Difficult to release each rockfish back to suitable depth within minutes

Not documented on fish tickets or logbooks; result in unknown number of discards at sea

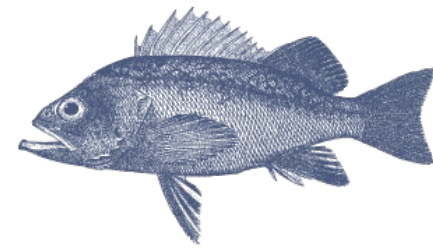




Rockfish

Proposal 193: allow permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut with mechanical jig and hand troll gear in state waters to release rockfish

	Prince William Sound	Southeast
Gear	Jig and hand troll	Jig and hand troll
Directed fisheries	Pacific cod, lingcod, halibut <i>(no directed rockfish fisheries)</i>	Pacific cod, lingcod, halibut, pelagic rockfish, DSR rockfish
Annual effort	Up to 10 permits	Up to 22 permits
Annual rockfish harvest	Up to 1,206 lb	Up to 112,966 lb
Rockfish limits	Guideline harvest level (GHL) of 150,000 lb for bycatch only; bycatch allowances	No GHL for bycatch; bycatch allowances



Rockfish

Proposal 211: clarify regulations regarding fish ticket documentation of rockfish overages in the groundfish, halibut, and salmon troll fisheries

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
ELECTRONIC SALMON TICKET**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

D20 000293

PURCHASER

Statistical Area WorkSheet			
Stat. Area	%	Stat. Area	%
101-95	100		
Nearest Bay/Headland: Hoota Bay			

Vessel BARRACUDA ADF&G NO. 14326 Permit S15B 00129Q 2001P TOM TROLLER <input type="checkbox"/> Mag Stripe Read	Mgmt Pgm LE Tender ADF&G No. 34365 Tender Name HALO	Port of Landing or off-shore operation type COR Cordova Type of Gear used 15 Power gurdy troll
Owner: T0014 TRAINING PROCESSOR 14 Custom Processor:	Start Date Caught 05/20/2020 Date Landed 05/20/2020 Time of Landing 10:01 Fishing Period	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Dock Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dual Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Floating <input type="checkbox"/> Double Brailers <input type="checkbox"/> Slide <input type="checkbox"/> QA Graph <input type="checkbox"/> Deck Load <input type="checkbox"/> Brailers Met Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Scale Loss

SPECIES	STAT AREA	DEL. COND	NUM	POST TARE	DISP.	SIZE & GRADE	GRD/PRC WEIGHT	PRICE	AMOUNT
410 Kings		04 Outted	2	24	60 Sold				
420 Reds		04 Outted	1	6	60 Sold				
430 Silvers		04 Outted	2	11	60 Sold				
440 Pinks		04 Outted	2	10	60 Sold				
450 Chums		01 Whole	106	880	60 Sold				





Questions?