



Advisory Announcement
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**2026 SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (SEO) SUBDISTRICT WINTER DIRECTED
DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY**

The directed commercial fishery for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) will open at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 5, 2026, in the East Yakutat (EYKT) and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections (Figure 1). These areas will remain open until the fishery quotas are taken or until 4:00 p.m., March 25, 2026, whichever occurs first. The directed fishery will remain closed in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Sections. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict Directed DSR Commercial Fishery Quotas

Groundfish Management Area	Quota (round lb)
East Yakutat (EYKT) Section	52,000
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section	0
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section	0
Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section	80,000

The 2026 DSR harvest target in the Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict is 661,387 round lb after the deduction of the 2026 estimated subsistence harvest (15,432 round lb). Regulation 5 AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(A) allocates 84% (555,565 round lb) to commercial fisheries and 16% (105,822 round lb) to sport fisheries. This commercial quota is then apportioned by groundfish management area based on the contribution of that area to the overall biomass. The quota remaining for the directed DSR commercial fishery in SEO is determined after deducting estimates of DSR bycatch mortality in other fisheries [5 AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(B)].

A management area may be opened to directed fishing when survey and stock assessment results indicate sufficient resource to support an orderly fishery and when no area-specific conservation concerns are identified. Because no new survey data have been collected since 2023 and limited additional research information is available, management decisions are based on the best available data and follow a precautionary approach. After accounting for quota decrements, the remaining quota is insufficient to support an orderly directed fishery in the NSEO area. In addition, given the level of fishing effort that occurred in the CSEO area in 2025, a more conservative rotational approach is warranted to reduce the risk of localized depletion and to address uncertainty associated with existing data gaps.

The winter directed commercial fishery for DSR remains open in portions of the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts. These areas will remain open until the fishery quotas are taken or until 4:00 p.m., March 25, 2026, whichever occurs first. Refer to the advisory announcement issued on December 18, 2025, for additional information.

Fishery catches will be closely monitored and fishers are advised that area closures may occur at short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard broadcast, National Weather Service broadcast, and the Groundfish Project's telephone hotline: 907-747-4882.

DSR Trip Limits (5 AAC 28.171)

Directed DSR fishery trip limit regulations prohibit the take, possession, or delivery of DSR in excess of the trip limit amount. When a vessel or CFEC permit holder delivers a DSR trip limit, the fisher must wait five days from the day of their last possession of fish aboard the vessel, take of fish, or delivery, before taking any additional fish.

In the Southeast District east of 137° W long, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not take or possess on board the vessel, or deliver, more than **6,000 pounds** of DSR (whole or bled weight) in any five-day period [5 AAC 28.171(d)]. In the East Yakutat Section, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not take or possess on board the vessel, or deliver, more than **8,000 pounds** of DSR (whole or bled weight) in any five-day period [5 AAC 28.171(e)].

All DSR taken in excess of the trip limit by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket as a trip limit overage. All proceeds from the sale of DSR in excess of the trip limit shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.

Permit and Registration (5 AAC 28.106)

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) “Y” interim use permit is required for the directed DSR fishery and is issued specific to gear type. This card must be obtained before registering and fishing. Fishers are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed DSR fishery by completing a registration form with the vessel’s name, management area(s) in which the vessel will be fishing, contact number, and signature of the owner or owner’s agent [5 AAC 28.106 (d)].

Logbooks (5 AAC 28.175)

The operator of a vessel fishing in the directed DSR fishery is required to maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations (5 AAC 28.175). A copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing. Fish tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within 7 days of landing. Logbooks are available at ADF&G offices.

Logbooks for longline gear must include the trip target species, port of landing, the date the vessel left port and the date the vessel landed, crew size, bait used, and gear specifications. For each set, the logbook must include the set’s target species, date and time gear is set and retrieved, specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude for start and ending positions, hook spacing, amount of gear (number of hooks and skates) used, the amount of gear lost, the depth of set, estimated number or weight of the target species, estimated number or weight of bycatch by species retained and released at sea, and other information as specified in regulation [5 AAC 28.175(b)(1)].

Logbooks for dinglebar troll gear, mechanical jigging machines, or hand troll gear must include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes, and nearest headland, the number of lines and total number of hooks used, the average depth fished, the hours fished, and the number of bycatch fish taken, by species, for each unique geographic location fished. For the target species, the number retained and the number discarded is required [5 AAC 28.175(b)(2)].

Legal Gear (5 AAC 28.130)

In the Southeast District, DSR may be taken in the directed fishery by longline, hand troll, dinglebar troll, and mechanical jigging machines [5 AAC 28.130 (d)(3)(B)]. An operational unit of dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line with one or more leaders, lures, or hooks, fastened to a single troll wire, deployed and retrieved with a single power or hand troll gurdy, and pulled through the water while the vessel is moving. Only one operational unit may be onboard or deployed at a time. Weights, including dinglebars and cannon balls, must be disconnected from other troll wires on the vessel. Additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel [5 AAC 28.130(h)(1)].

No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel and no more than 30 hooks per line may be operated from a jigging machine. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion and may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)].

Vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter “D” and vessels fishing for or transporting groundfish taken with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter “M” (5 AAC 28.135). A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying more than one of these letters at any time. A vessel may not display either letter while the vessel is being used to fish for salmon.

Closed Waters (5 AAC 28.150)

Demersal shelf rockfish may not be taken in the directed DSR fishery in the following waters (Figure 1):

- (1) In the Ketchikan vicinity: all waters of Behm Canal, Clarence Strait, Tongass Narrows, Nichols Passage, George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Thorne Arm, Revillagigedo Channel, and all contiguous waters enclosed by the latitude of Bushy Point Light, a line from Point Alava to the southernmost tip of Ham Island, a line from Cedar Point to Dall Head, and a line from Dall Head to a point in midstream Clarence Strait at the latitude of Dall Head to Caamano Point.
- (2) In the vicinity of Craig and Klawock: all waters of Ulloa Channel north of the latitude of Waterfall Cannery, and all waters enclosed by a line from the southernmost tip of St. Philip Island to the northernmost tip of San Fernando Island, to Point Cangrejo.
- (3) In Glacier Bay National Park: the waters of Glacier Bay north of a line from Point Carolus at 58°22.694' N lat, 136°02.535' W long, to Point Gustavus at 58°22.748' N lat, 135°54.927' W long, and the waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line running from 58°22.900' N lat, 136°25.300' W long, and 58°23.600' N lat, 136°24.600' W long. For additional information contact the Glacier Bay National Park Service at 907-697-2230.

Fishers are reminded of the Gulf of Alaska Coral Protection Areas. There is one Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) near Cape Ommaney and four HAPC areas on the Fairweather Grounds that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear, including dinglebar troll gear. For additional information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228. Locations of the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679 at:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-679/appendix-Table%2026%20to%20Part%20679>.

Annette Islands Reserve

The Annette Islands Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and the adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve (Figure 1). Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants.

Federal Regulations and Requirements

Vessels fishing for groundfish in federal waters (EEZ) of the Gulf of Alaska are subject to federal regulations and requirements. Vessels participating in the directed DSR fishery in the EEZ are required to retain and land all rockfish caught while fishing for groundfish; therefore, they must possess a Federal Fisheries Permit. Vessels greater than 26 feet fishing for groundfish with longline gear must comply with seabird avoidance requirements specified in 50 C.F.R 679.24. For additional information on federal regulations and requirements, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances

CFEC permit holders directed fishing for DSR must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish caught including thornyhead rockfish. All rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch from state waters shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska [5 AAC 28.171(a)]. Excess rockfish bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but may not enter commerce.

Bycatch of species that do not fall under full retention requirements and are caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit for a management area are required to be released at sea; bycatch retained in excess of the allowable bycatch limit shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Additional information on bycatch harvest and calculating bycatch allowances can be found at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.groundfish#harvest>.

A permit holder who is directed fishing for DSR in state waters of the Southeast District may legally retain, possess, and sell the following bycatch percentages in the table below, based on the round weight of all DSR on board. For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0326.

GEAR TYPE	BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS (NSEI and SSEI)	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS (0-3 MILES)
LONGLINE AND JIG	Rockfish	15% in aggregate. Full retention is required for all rockfish, including thornyhead.	15% in aggregate. Full retention is required for all rockfish, including thornyhead.
	Lingcod*	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35%; bycatch permitted until GHL taken. <u>Jig fishery:</u> 0%	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35%; bycatch permitted until GHL taken. <u>Jig fishery:</u> 0%
	Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35% <u>Jig fishery:</u> 20%	<u>Longline fishery:</u> 35% <u>Jig fishery:</u> 20%
	Sablefish	0%, no retention	0%, no retention
	Pacific cod	20%. Full retention required when directed Pacific cod fishery is open.	20%. Full retention required when directed Pacific cod fishery is open.
	Skates	Aggregated with "Other Groundfish"	5%
	Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate	20% in aggregate

*The minimum size limit for lingcod is 27" from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" from front of the dorsal fin to tip of tail. Lingcod Management Areas include Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sectors, Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), and the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Sections (5 AAC 28.105).

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

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	784-3220
Groundfish Hotline				747-4882			

Areas Open to Directed Demersal Shelf Rockfish Harvest

□ OPEN ■ CLOSED

For reference only - please refer to State regulations for specific boundary descriptions.

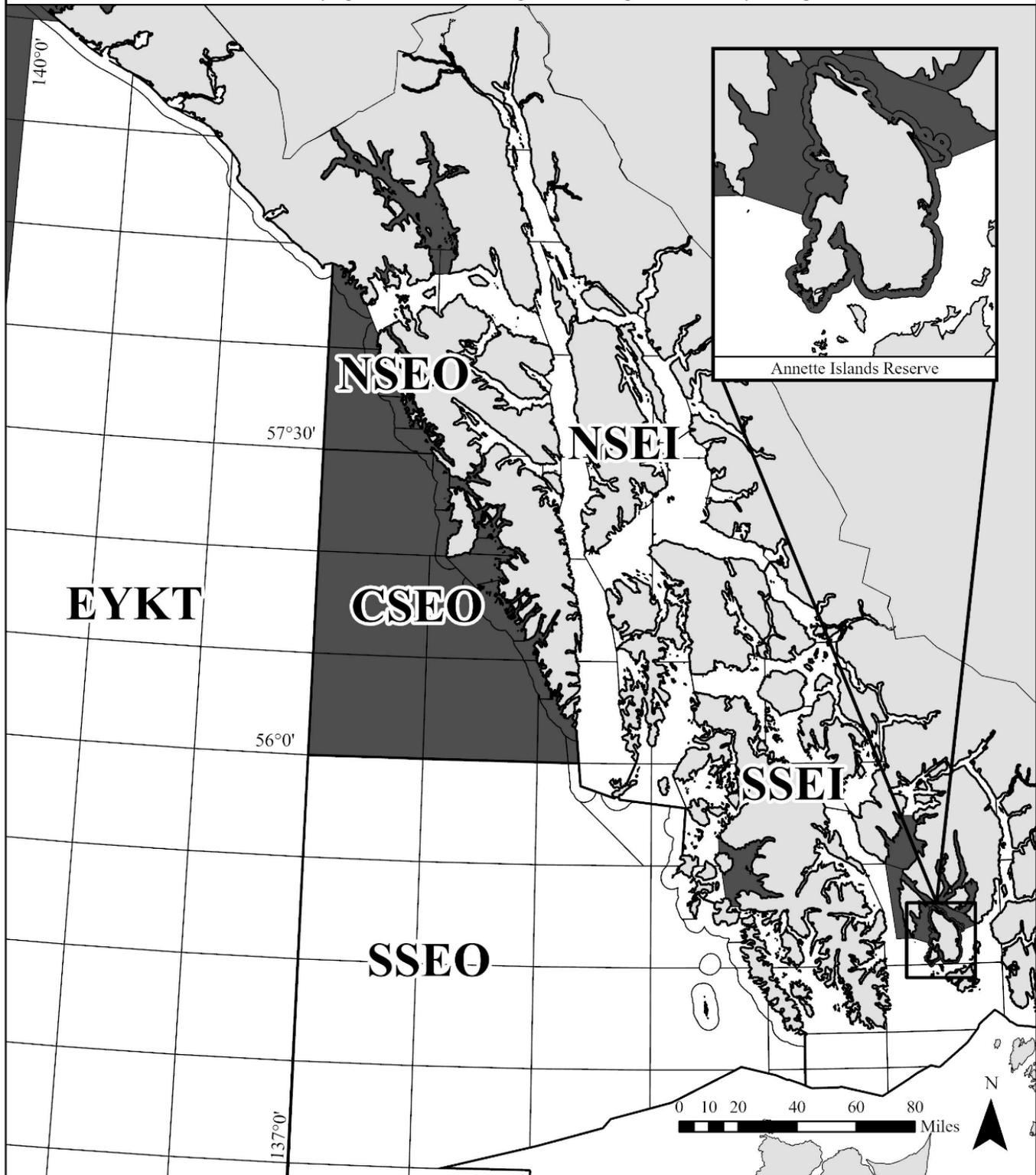


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska groundfish management areas open and closed to the 2026 directed demersal shelf rockfish fishery. This map is for general reference only, for descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.