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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2024

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Prince William Sound Area
Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery
Hinchinbrook Section Closure
Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-04-24

The directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery in the **Hinchinbrook Section of Prince William Sound (PWS)** will close at **11:59 p.m. January 29**.

The directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery in the PWS Inside District opened January 20 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 9.61 million lb. The Inside District is divided into three sections: Hinchinbrook, Knight Island, and Bainbridge with harvest from any section restricted to 60% of the GHL or 5.77 million lb. The *Prince William Sound Pollock Pelagic Trawl Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.263) specifies a 5% aggregate bycatch cap, and the department further apportions this among five species groups. Based on harvest reports and projections in the Hinchinbrook Section, the squid bycatch cap of 173,039 lb will be achieved.

Pollock fishing will remain open in the Knight Island and Bainbridge sections until the GHL or bycatch limits are achieved.

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