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Advisory Announcement

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Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Pot Gear Season Opening and Closure of the Parallel Season Emergency Order # 4-GF-02-24

National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season for catcher vessels less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) using hook-and-line or pot gear effective January 25, 2024 at 12:00 noon. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open for vessels 58 feet or less OAL using groundfish pot gear at 12:00 noon February 1, 2024, with a limit of 60 pots per vessel. When the state-waters Pacific cod season is open, state waters are closed to vessels fishing in parallel Pacific cod pot fisheries (including CDQ) that are 58 feet and less OAL. The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is closed south of 53° 06.11' N lat.

Steller sea lion protection measures will be in effect during the state-waters season. Closures are listed in Tables 5 and 12 to 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS web site at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e928699f8903a416bed34b9bcaae6903&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5>.

Fishermen must obtain an exclusive Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration and buoy tags prior to participating. Buoy tags are available for purchase through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, and at Trident Seafoods in Akutan.

Reporting requirements will be provided at the time of registration. Reports will be taken by telephone (907-581-1239), text/WhatsApp (907-512-7234), or email (dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov). Fishermen transitioning between a federal or parallel Pacific cod fishery and a state-waters Pacific cod fishery must deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod on board prior to participating in or exiting the Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod season. Open and unbaited groundfish pots may be stored on the fishing grounds in waters greater than 25 fathoms for seven days prior to the start of the state-waters season.

For additional information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

