

Fishery Management Report No. 16-41

**Fishery Management Plan for the Dutch Harbor
Subdistrict State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod
Seasons, 2017**

by

Justin M. Leon

December 2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the *Système International d'Unités* (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)		General	Mathematics, statistics
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	alternate hypothesis H_A
gram	g		base of natural logarithm e
hectare	ha		catch per unit effort CPUE
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted professional titles	coefficient of variation CV
kilometer	km		common test statistics (F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	at	confidence interval CI
meter	m	compass directions:	correlation coefficient (multiple) R
milliliter	mL	east E	correlation coefficient (simple) r
millimeter	mm	north N	covariance cov
		south S	degree (angular) °
		west W	degrees of freedom df
		copyright ©	expected value E
Weights and measures (English)		corporate suffixes:	greater than >
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Company Co.	greater than or equal to ≥
foot	ft	Corporation Corp.	harvest per unit effort HPUE
gallon	gal	Incorporated Inc.	less than <
inch	in	Limited Ltd.	less than or equal to ≤
mile	mi	District of Columbia D.C.	logarithm (natural) ln
nautical mile	nmi	et alii (and others) et al.	logarithm (base 10) log
ounce	oz	et cetera (and so forth) etc.	logarithm (specify base) log ₂ , etc.
pound	lb	exempli gratia (for example) e.g.	minute (angular) '
quart	qt	Federal Information Code FIC	not significant NS
yard	yd	id est (that is) i.e.	null hypothesis H_0
		latitude or longitude lat or long	percent %
		monetary symbols (U.S.) \$, ¢	probability P
Time and temperature		months (tables and figures): first three letters Jan, ..., Dec	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true) α
day	d	registered trademark ®	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false) β
degrees Celsius	°C	trademark ™	second (angular) "
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	United States U.S.	standard deviation SD
degrees kelvin	K	(adjective) United States of America (noun) USA	standard error SE
hour	h	U.S.C. United States Code	variance
minute	min	U.S. state	population Var
second	s		sample var
Physics and chemistry			
all atomic symbols			
alternating current	AC		
ampere	A		
calorie	cal		
direct current	DC		
hertz	Hz		
horsepower	hp		
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH		
parts per million	ppm		
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰		
volts	V		
watts	W		

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 16-41

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DUTCH HARBOR
SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD
SEASONS, 2017**

by
Justin M. Leon

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99518-1565

December 2016

The Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 by the Division of Sport Fish for the publication of an overview of management activities and goals in a specific geographic area, and became a joint divisional series in 2004 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

Justin M. Leon

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
PO Box 920587, Dutch Harbor, AK 99692, USA*

This document should be cited as follows:

Leon, J. M. 2016. Fishery management plan for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons, 2017. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 16-41, Anchorage.

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ABSTRACT

This document provides an overview of regulations governing the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters and parallel Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons. The 2017 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is scheduled to open 7 days after closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel Pacific cod season for vessels less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) sector. Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet OAL and may only use groundfish pot gear. No more than 60 pots may be operated from a vessel. The guideline harvest level for the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is 6.4% of the estimated acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea subarea. Effective inseason management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between fishermen and fish processors with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures that may result in lost fishing opportunity.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, DHS, guideline harvest level, state-waters season, parallel season, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska's Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Area for groundfish management consists of all state waters of Alaska (0–3 nmi) in the Bering Sea and that portion of the North Pacific Ocean adjacent to the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long.

The Bering Sea District consists of all state waters of Alaska in the BSAI Area north of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54° 36' N lat). The Aleutian Islands District consists of all state waters of Alaska in the BSAI Area south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N lat).

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) consists of state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W long and state waters of the Bering Sea District west of 164° W long and south of 55° 30' N lat, except DHS is closed to fishing in Steller sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus* (SSL) protection areas south of 53° 06.11' N lat (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons occur within state waters of the DHS. First is a parallel fishery prosecuted concurrent to the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi). The parallel season is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) by adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) rules and inseason management actions. The second Pacific cod season is the DHS state-waters season, which is an open-access fishery managed exclusively by ADF&G under the *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*, 5 AAC 28.648. The purpose of this document is to provide specific fishery management information for the 2017 DHS state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES

During the parallel Pacific cod season, current NMFS SSL protection measures for Tables 5 and 12 will be in effect and are located at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska.

During the state-waters Pacific cod season, SSL closures as specified for the Bering Sea Area in Table 5 (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab15.pdf>) are closed to the taking of Pacific cod within 3 nautical miles except the SSL haulouts at Umnak Island/Cape Aslik (53°

25.00' N lat, 168° 24.50' W long), Uliaga (53° 04.00' N lat, 169° 47.00' W long to 53° 05.00' N lat, 169° 46.00' W long), and Kagamil (53° 02.10' N lat, 169° 41.00' W long) are closed to the taking of Pacific cod within 3 nautical miles. During the state-waters season, SSL protection measures specified in Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679 (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab112.pdf>) are also in effect.

BYCATCH

In state waters, for species not actively managed by the State of Alaska, ADF&G adopts NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the adjacent EEZ. Retainable bycatch percentages are subject to change and may differ between species. For groundfish species without a specified bycatch limit, up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel may be retained. Black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* and dark rockfish *S. ciliatus* may only be retained up to 5% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel. Federal BSAI retainable bycatch percentages are located in Table 11 of 50 CFR part 679 updated April 6, 2015, and are available on the NMFS website (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>) or by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A).

PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON

At the beginning of each year, ADF&G issues an emergency order opening parallel groundfish fishing seasons to coincide with federal groundfish seasons in the adjacent EEZ. The initial federal BSAI Pacific cod season opens January 1 for vessels using fixed gear and January 20 for vessels using trawl gear. When the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is open, the parallel season is closed to vessels 58 feet or less overall length (OAL) using pot gear.

Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types (except nonpelagic trawl gear is prohibited in specified waters of 5 AAC 39.164 (4)), seasons, and bycatch limits in the adjacent federal Pacific cod season apply in a parallel season (5 AAC 28.629 and 5 AAC 28.050). With the exception of vessels using mechanical jigging machines, all vessels that participate in a parallel Pacific cod season must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). During a parallel Pacific cod season in the BSAI, vessels using longline gear may not exceed 58 feet in OAL (5 AAC 28.690(c)).

Fishermen must possess a 2017 statewide Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length. Fishermen participating in the parallel Pacific cod season are not required by the State of Alaska to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or Pacific cod gear endorsement administered through the federal License Limitation Program (LLP). However, it is the responsibility of fishermen who possess an FFP to understand applicable federal regulations, including regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements. Fishermen that relinquish possession of an FFP for the parallel season are responsible for understanding federal regulations for the FFP's reissue.

Pacific cod harvested during the parallel fishery accrue toward the federal total allowable catch (TAC). The parallel Pacific cod season closes by sector when the TAC is reached or when incidental species allowances are met. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (Appendix A).

STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod fishery is guided by 5 AAC 28.648 *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*. The following is a description of regulations in effect for the 2017 season.

2017 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2017 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is 33,721,562 pounds and is based on 6.4% of the estimated acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea subarea.

SEASON DATES

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season will open by emergency order 7 days after closure of the initial federal BSAI Pacific cod season for the hook-and-line (HAL)/pot gear catcher vessel (CV) less than 60 feet OAL sector. The state-waters season will close when the GHL is achieved or at the regulatory season closure date of December 31, whichever occurs first.

If the federal BSAI Pacific cod HAL/pot gear CV less than 60 feet OAL sector receives a TAC reallocation, the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may close to provide for orderly fisheries. If GHL is available at the time of the federal BSAI Pacific cod HAL/pot gear CV less than 60 feet OAL sector reallocation closure, the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may reopen.

After October 1, if a substantial portion of the state-waters GHL remains unharvested and the GHL is unlikely to be achieved by December 31, gear limits, vessel size restrictions, and exclusive registration requirements may be removed. All inseason management actions will be announced by ADF&G news release.

VESSEL SIZE RESTRICTION

Vessels participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet OAL, unless modified by ADF&G news release after October 1.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is an exclusive registration area. Vessels registered for the 2017 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during 2017, but may participate in a nonexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season in the same calendar year. Conversely, if a vessel has registered for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season outside of the DHS during 2017, that vessel may not participate in the 2017 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Exclusive registration does not apply to federal or parallel Pacific cod fisheries.

All vessels must register with ADF&G prior to participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, and also may be available at local processors in Akutan and King Cove. Fishermen must possess a 2017 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear prior to registration. Contact information for ADF&G offices and CFEC are located in Appendix A.

Vessels may not simultaneously participate in a Pacific cod state-waters season and any other concurrent Pacific cod season. Vessels registered for the DHS state-waters season must

invalidate their registration prior to participating in any other Pacific cod season. Fishermen may validate or invalidate vessel registrations by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) during normal state business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM). All Pacific cod must be delivered prior to validating or invalidating a DHS Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod registration.

CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the DHS state-waters Pacific cod pot season using inseason catch reports and fish tickets. Fishermen will be required to report regularly during the fishing season. Fishermen **must report** the statistical area of harvest, number of pot lifts, and pounds of Pacific cod retained during the reporting period determined by the department. Catch reports will be taken by satellite dispatch service, single sideband (code sheets will be provided upon request at registration), phone, fax, or electronic mail (Appendices B and C). Fishermen will be asked for their preferred reporting method when registering, and reporting worksheets will be issued at that time. Catch report periods will be determined at time of registration. In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures that may result in lost fishing opportunity.

LEGAL GEAR, POT LIMIT, AND BUOY TAGS

Groundfish pot gear is the only legal gear type during the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. During the DHS state-waters season, groundfish pots of any size may be used to take Pacific cod, although pot gear individual tunnel eye openings must be 36 inches in perimeter or less (5 AAC 28.050(e)). All pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism (5 AAC 39.145), located on a sidewall and placed within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot leaving an opening 18 inches or greater in length. The escape mechanism must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated 100% cotton biodegradable twine no larger than 30 thread count.

No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel unless the pot limit is rescinded by AGF&G new release after October 1. Buoy tags are required for pot gear when the 60-pot limit is in effect. Tags must be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy (5 AAC 28.050 (f)). **Buoy tags (\$2.00 per tag) will be available at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and may be available in Akutan.** Only cash and check are acceptable payment methods for purchasing buoy tags. A valid 2017 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear is required to register. Contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) for additional information on buoy tags.

If buoy tags are lost during the season, replacement tags may be obtained by contacting ADF&G. The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete and submit an affidavit form to ADF&G describing how tags were lost, and provide location and unique number of each lost tag. Pots with lost tags may remain in the water but those pots must be secured open with bait and bait containers removed until replacement tags are obtained.

BUOY MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Buoys attached to groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel number that corresponds with the ADF&G vessel number operating that gear (5 AAC 28.050(b)). The buoy containing the 5-digit ADF&G number may not be marked with any additional numbers;

however, symbols and letters are acceptable on this buoy. Trailer buoys used to mark ownership or string sequence may be marked with any desired numbers, symbols, or letters.

POT STORAGE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Following closure of a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod season, groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open in waters greater than 25 fathoms for a maximum of 7 days. After 7 days, groundfish pots must be removed from the water or in storage condition in waters 25 fathoms or less. Contact NMFS Enforcement (Appendix A) regarding gear storage in federal waters.

Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season must deliver their catch within 48 hours after a season closure. Vessels may have Pacific cod onboard after the 48-hour period following a closure only when the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances, and the vessel operator has contacted an ADF&G representative within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed using information gathered inseason from vessels, processors, and fish tickets. All inseason management actions during the state-waters season will be distributed via the ADF&G news release system (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), relayed through participating processors, and communicated to the fleet. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient time for fishermen to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice of a closure. Interested parties may also sign up for electronic mail delivery of news releases through the ADF&G news release system.

Weekly non-confidential harvest updates will be released while the state-waters season is open and are available inseason on the ADF&G website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaaleutianislands.groundfish> or by contacting ADF&G.

FIGURES

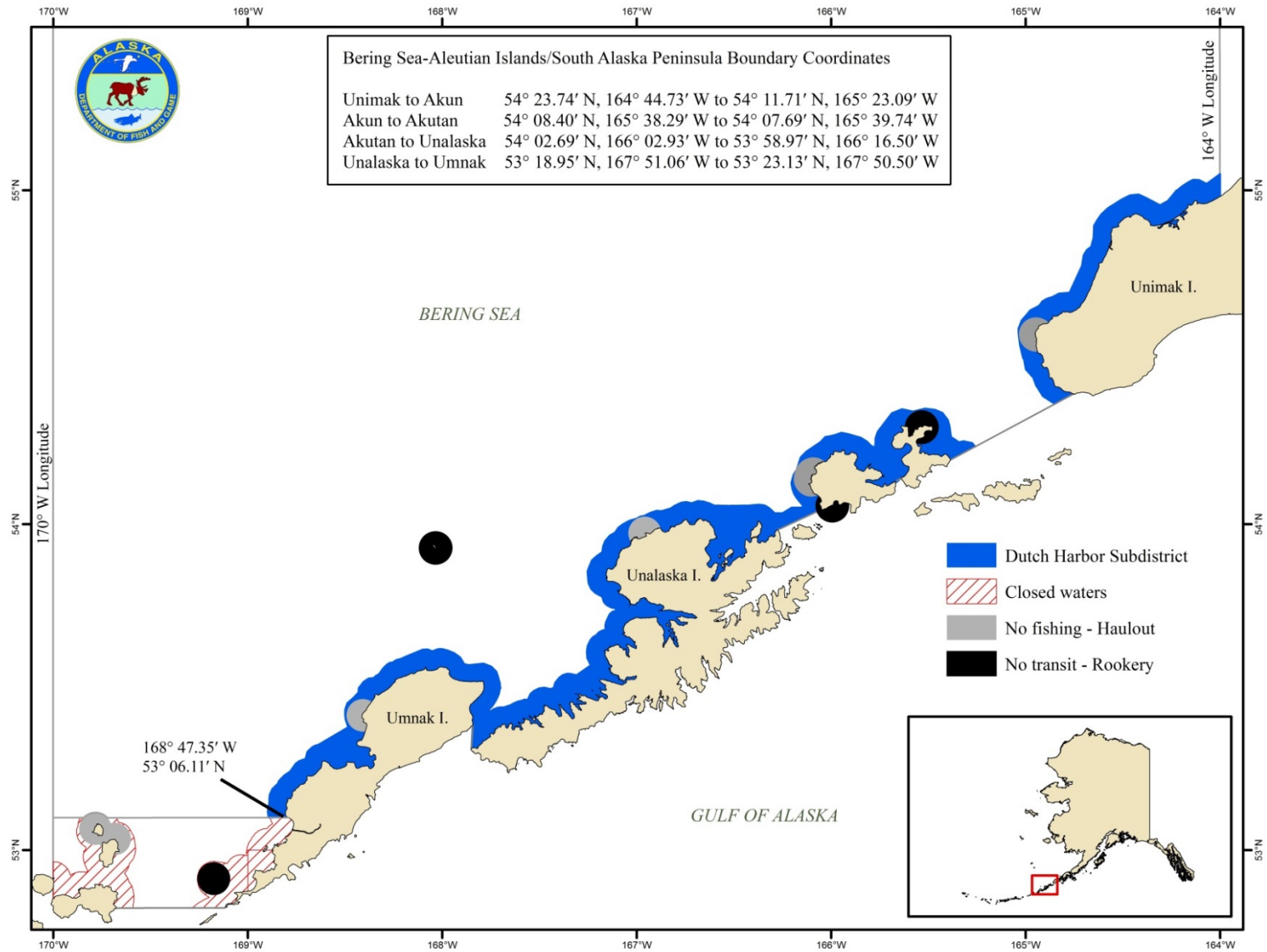


Figure 1.—Dutch Harbor Subdistrict for state-waters Pacific cod.

**APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY
AND LOCATION**

Appendix A1.–List of fishery contacts by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game			website: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/
<u>Dutch Harbor Office</u>			
Mail Address: P.O. Box 920587 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Physical Address: 2315 Airport Beach Road 2 nd floor, Suite 207 Dutch Harbor, Alaska	Phone: (907) 581-1239 Fax: (907) 581-1572 E-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov Dispatch: #1234 SSB: 4125 kHz WIM76 Dutch Harbor	
Miranda Westphal, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Management Biologist		E-mail: miranda.westphal@alaska.gov	
Justin Leon, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Asst. Area Management Biologist		E-mail: justin.leon@alaska.gov	
<u>Kodiak Office</u>			
Mail Address: 351 Research Court Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical Address: 351 Research Court Kodiak, Alaska	Phone: (907) 486-1840 Fax: (907) 486-1824	
Mark Stichert, Regional Groundfish Management Biologist		E-mail: mark.stichert@alaska.gov	
Nat Nichols, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Management Biologist		E-mail: nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov	
Natura Richardson, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Management Biologist		E-mail: natura.richardson@alaska.gov	
Alaska Wildlife Troopers			website: http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/
<u>Dutch Harbor Office</u>			
Mail Address: P.O. Box 920848 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Physical Address: 2315 Airport Beach Road, Suite 101 Dutch Harbor, Alaska	Phone: (907) 581-1432 Fax: (907) 581-1407	
Todd Machacek, Post Sergeant		E-mail: todd.machacek@alaska.gov	
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)			website: http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/
Mail Address: 8800 Glacier Highway Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302	Physical Address: 8800 Glacier Highway #109 Juneau, Alaska	Phone: (907) 789-6150 Fax: (907) 789-6170	
National Marine Fisheries Service – Alaska Region			website: http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/
<u>Sustainable Fisheries Division</u>			
Krista Milani, Dutch Harbor Office		Phone: (907) 581-2062	
Mary Furuness, Juneau Office		Phone: (907) 586-7447	
<u>NOAA Fisheries Enforcement</u>			
Dutch Harbor Office		Phone: (907) 581-2061	
Anchorage Office		Phone: (907) 586-7225	
<u>NOAA Observer Program</u>			
Dutch Harbor Office		Phone: (907) 581-2060	
Seattle Office		Phone: (206) 526-4195	

APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEETS



**2017 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters
Pacific Cod Inseason Reporting Worksheet**



Fishermen must report fishing information for the previous week (Monday to Sunday)
WEEKLY on MONDAYS between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to the Dutch Harbor Office.

**Do not combine reports.
If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.**

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Date ¹	Statistical Area ²	Pounds of Cod Retained ³	Effort ⁴

WEEKLY TOTAL

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	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Date ¹	Statistical Area ²	Pounds of Cod Retained ³	Effort ⁴

WEEKLY TOTAL

--	--	--	--

¹ Previous 24 hours (midnight to midnight)
² Area(s) fished in the past 24 hrs - stat areas if possible
³ Weight in pounds of retained cod in the past 24 hrs
⁴ Number of pots lifted in the past 24 hrs

Inseason Reporting Contacts:
 ADF&G Dutch Harbor
 Dispatch: #1234
 Phone: (907) 581-1239
 Fax: (907) 581-1572
 SSB: 4125 kHz WIM 76 Dutch Harbor
 E-Mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov



2017 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters Pacific Cod Inseason Reporting Worksheet



Fishermen must report the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight)
DAILY between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to the Dutch Harbor Office.

Do not combine reports.

If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Date ¹	Statistical Area ²	Pounds of Cod Retained ³	Effort ⁴

<p>¹ Previous 24 hours (midnight to midnight)</p> <p>² Area(s) fished in the past 24 hrs - stat areas if possible</p> <p>³ Weight in pounds of retained cod in the past 24 hrs</p> <p>⁴ Number of pots lifted in the past 24 hrs</p>	<p>Inseason Reporting Contacts:</p> <p>ADF&G Dutch Harbor Dispatch: #1234 Phone: (907) 581-1239 Fax: (907) 581-1572 SSB: 4125 kHz WIM 76 Dutch Harbor E-Mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov</p>
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