The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) parallel Pacific cod season will close to longline gear effective 12:00 noon October 3. This closure coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the Pacific cod less than 50 foot in length hook-and-line (<50’ HAL) gear sector in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area (CGOA).

The PWS state-waters Pacific cod season will open to longline gear at 12:00 noon October 3, as provided in the Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.267). For 2019, the total state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) for PWS is 936,965 lb, with 375,423 lb harvested to date. After September 1, the management plan allows remaining Pacific cod GHL to be available to all legal gear types for harvest, regardless of initial allocations (85% to longline gear). Therefore, 561,542 lb is available for harvest by registered vessels fishing with longline or jig gear in the state-waters season. The parallel season for vessels fishing with pot gear remains open.

Fishermen are reminded that there is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery (5 AAC 28.271).

Fishermen must obtain a PWS state-waters Pacific cod area registration before participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season. PWS is an exclusive registration area for vessels fishing longline gear during a state-waters Pacific cod season. Vessel registrations may be obtained from department offices in Homer, Cordova, or Anchorage, or by fax through the Homer office. Fishermen are required to check in with the department prior to each fishing trip by telephoning (907) 424-7225 and reporting the following three items: 1) vessel name, 2) estimated date and time of departure for trip, and 3) estimated length of trip (5 AAC 28.020(c)). This requirement is detailed on the area registration form.

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**Fishing area:** During a state-waters season, Pacific cod may be taken in PWS waters (5 AAC 28.205) except for those waters of the Outside District east of 146° 15.12’ W. long. (the latitude of Hook Point) as described under 5 AAC 28.267(e)(2) (Figure 1).

**Steller Sea Lion rookery closures:** Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS (Figure 1). For specific regulatory language contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780 or [https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm](https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm).

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

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Figure 1. Prince William Sound Area closures to groundfish pot gear, groundfish fishing, and to the state waters Pacific cod season.