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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2019

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Cook Inlet Area

Pacific Cod State-Waters Seasons Open

Emergency Order # 2-GF-H-01-20

The Cook Inlet Area Pacific cod state-waters season for **jig gear will open January 1, 2020**. The Cook Inlet Area Pacific cod state waters season for **pot gear will open February 1, 2020**.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Cook Inlet Area Pacific cod state-waters season is 454,513 lb, with 85% or 386,336 lb allocated to pot gear and 15% or 68,177 lb allocated to jig gear. In addition, only 25% of the GHL or 113,628 lb may be harvested by vessels using pot gear that are greater than 58 feet in length.

Area registration is required for the Pacific cod state-waters season. The Cook Inlet Area is an exclusive registration area during the Pacific cod state-waters season. For pot vessels, no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel, and each pot must display a buoy identification tag. Vessel registrations and buoy tags may be obtained from department offices in Homer or by appointment in Seward (contact Homer ADF&G office).

Groundfish pot storage provisions (5 AAC 28.332) allow groundfish pot gear to be stored in state waters for up to five days following the closure of a groundfish season to pot gear provided all bait and bait containers are removed and all doors are secured open at the time of closure. After the five-day period has elapsed, no groundfish pot storage is permitted in state waters.

Steller Sea Lion Rookery closures: The department has closed fishing in waters adjacent to two sea lion rookeries in the Cook Inlet Area. Sugarloaf Island (in the Barren Islands) and Outer (Pye) Island are closed to directed Pacific cod fishing with pot gear within 10 nautical miles of the specified locations and closed to vessel transit within three nautical miles (Figure 1). Contact ADF&G in Homer, NMFS in Kodiak (ph: 481-1780), or consult the NMFS website at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tabl5.pdf> for exact locations of these closure areas.

Pot fishing closure areas: Some areas are closed by regulation 5 AAC 28.350 to fishing with groundfish pot gear (Figure 2). Check the regulation book or contact Homer ADF&G at (907) 235-8191 prior to fishing.

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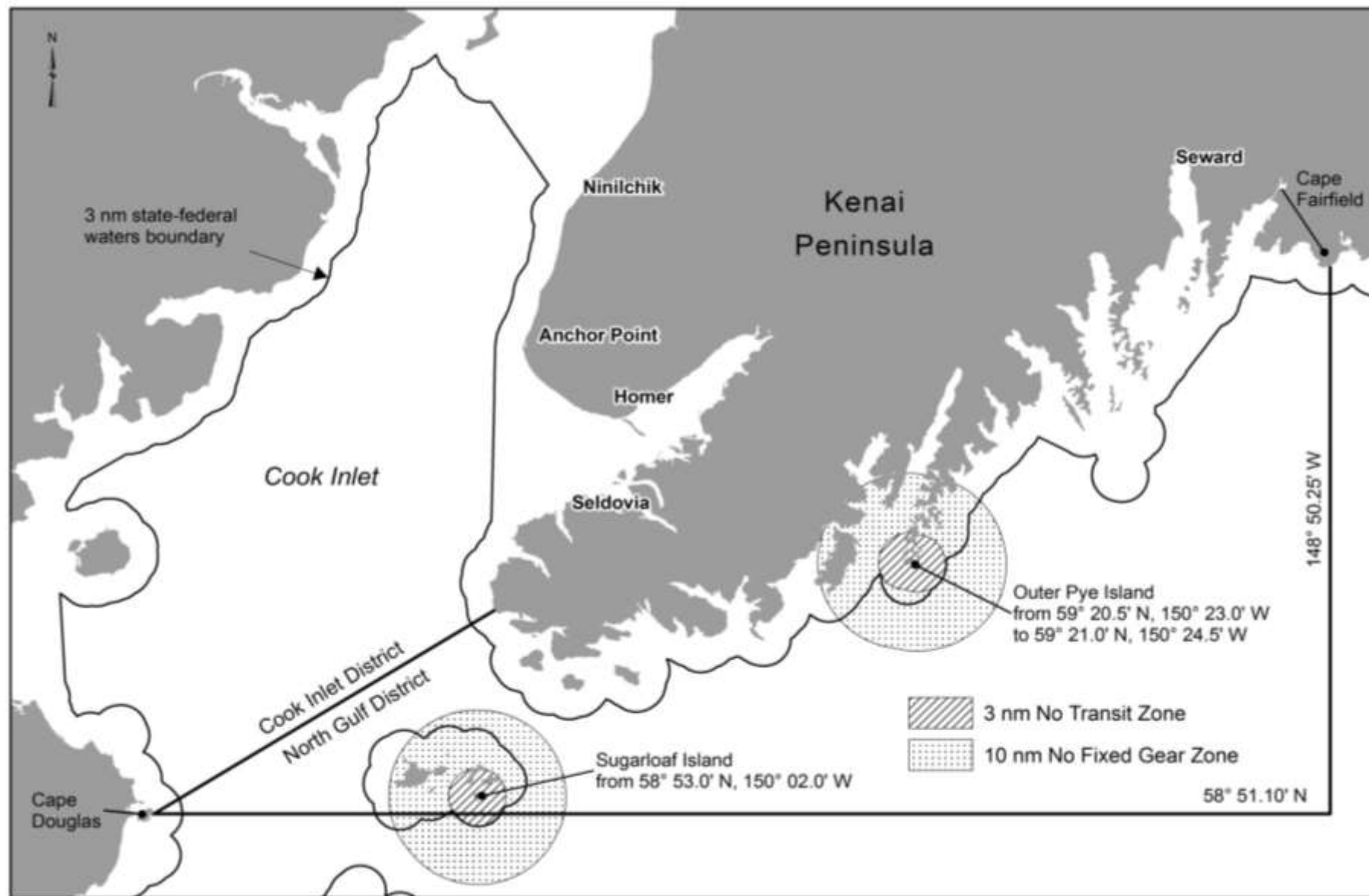


Figure 1.—Vessel no-transit and fixed gear Pacific cod fishing closure zones around Steller sea lion rookeries within the Cook Inlet Area.

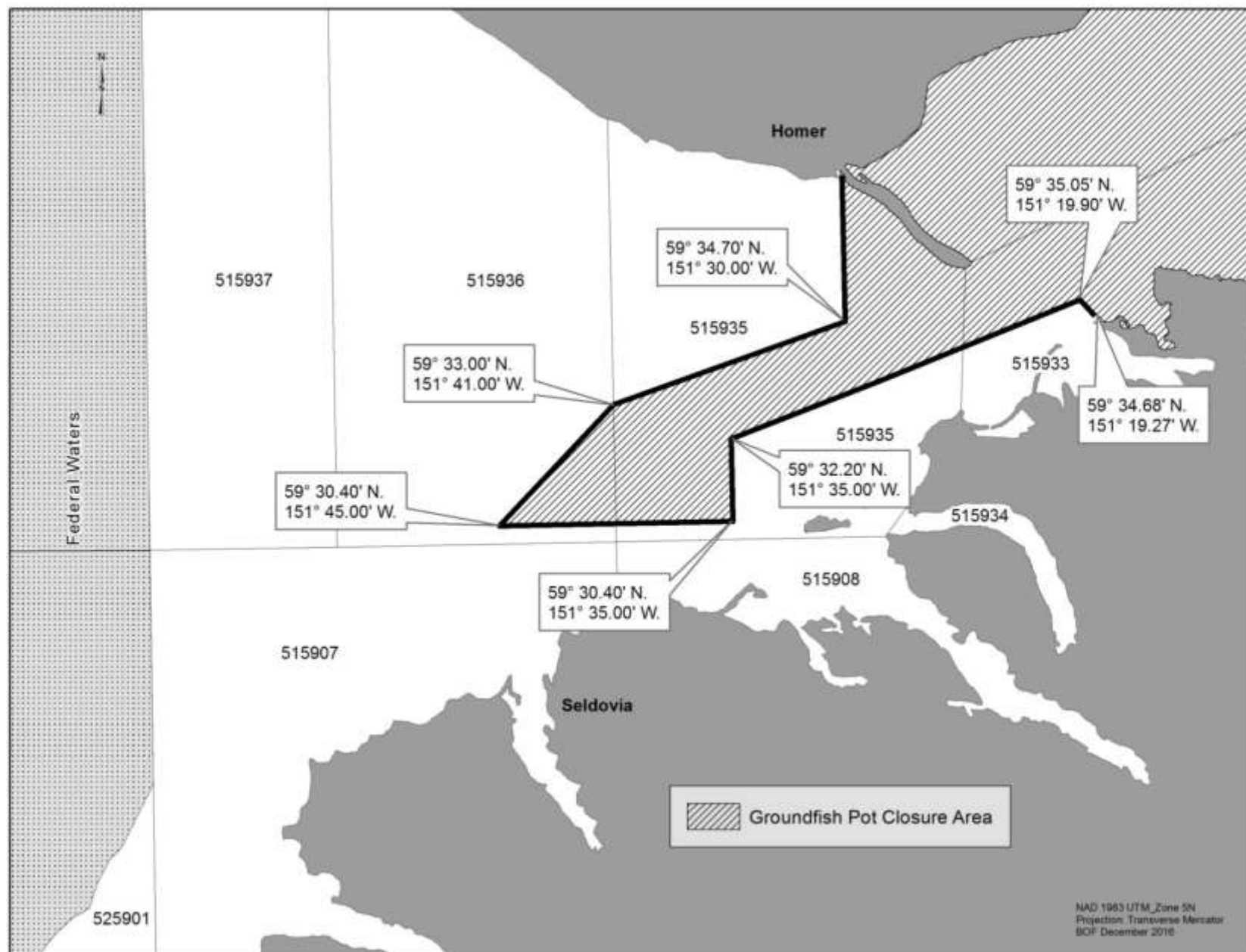


Figure 2. Kachemak Bay groundfish pot closure area with coordinates.

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