



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2019

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Prince William Sound Area **Pacific Cod State-Waters Seasons Open** **Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-02-20**

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) Pacific cod state-waters seasons for **jig, pot, and longline gear will open February 1, 2020.**

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the PWS Pacific cod state-waters season is 437,425 lb, with 85% or 371,811 lb allocated to longline gear and 15% or 65,614 lb allocated to pot or jig gear.

Area registration is required for the Pacific cod state-waters season. PWS is an exclusive registration area for longline and pot vessels 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 and Cordova, or by appointment in Seward (contact Homer ADF&G office).

Under the authority of 5 AAC 28.020(c), and as a condition of registration for the PWS Pacific cod state-waters season, 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
- 3) Estimated length of trip

Pot vessels registered for the state-waters Pacific cod season may store groundfish pots as provided in 5 AAC 28.232. Groundfish storage provisions allow groundfish pot gear to be stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep on the north side of Montague Island between 147° 25.00' W. long. and 147° 35.00' W. long. for up to 10 days prior to the opening and 10 days following the closure of the state-waters season to pot gear, provided all bait and bait containers are removed and all doors are secured open at the time of the closure. After the ten-day period has elapsed, no groundfish pot storage is permitted.

Fishing area: During a state-waters season, Pacific cod may be taken in waters of PWS (5 AAC 28.205) except for those waters of the Outside District east of 146° 15.12' W. long. (the latitude of Hook Point) (5 AAC 28.267 (e) (2)); see map in 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>.

Pot fishing closure areas: Some areas are closed by regulation 5 AAC 28.250 to fishing with groundfish pot gear (Figure 1). Check the regulation book or contact Homer ADF&G at (907) 235-8191 prior to fishing.

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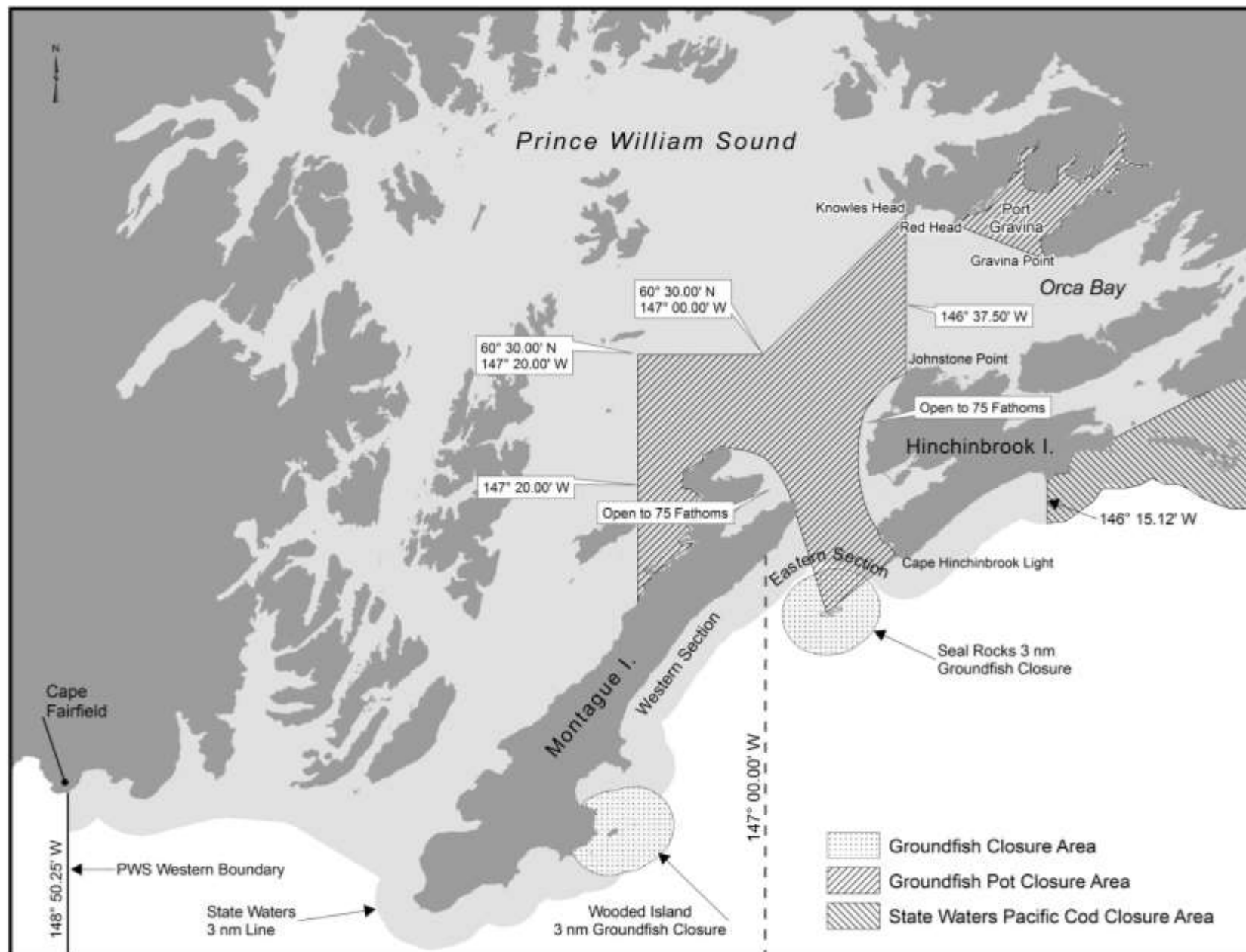


Figure 1. Prince William Sound Area closures to groundfish pot gear, groundfish fishing, and to the state-waters Pacific cod season.

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