



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: January 22, 2021

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2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED PACIFIC COD FISHERY CLOSURE

The directed fishery for Pacific cod will close at 11:59 p.m., Friday, January 22, 2021, in all waters of Lynn Canal and northern Stephens Passage (Figure 1). This area is defined as all waters of groundfish statistical areas 345801, 345802, 345803, 345830, 355830, and 355900.

The guideline harvest range for Pacific cod in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts combined is 750,000–1,250,000 round pounds. Approximately 114,000 round pounds of Pacific cod have been taken from the Lynn Canal and northern Stephens Passage area during the 2020/2021 seasonal fishing period. This season's harvest represents 193% of the average catch from this geographic area in the prior five fishing seasons (2015–2020). However, that period includes three historically low harvest seasons (2017/2018 to 2019/2020) when significant Pacific cod declines were seen throughout the Gulf of Alaska. Excluding those years, this season's harvest represents 80% of the average harvest for the five seasons 2012/2013 to 2016/2017.

This closure affects the directed Pacific cod fishery only. Pacific cod taken as bycatch in other fisheries may be retained in these areas as permitted by established bycatch allowances. This area closure is announced to distribute effort and harvest throughout the remaining open areas of NSEI and SSEI. The area will reopen to directed fishing for Pacific cod on July 1, 2021.

Pacific cod catches will be closely monitored, and fishermen are advised that additional area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and the National Weather Service broadcast. Area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0321.

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255

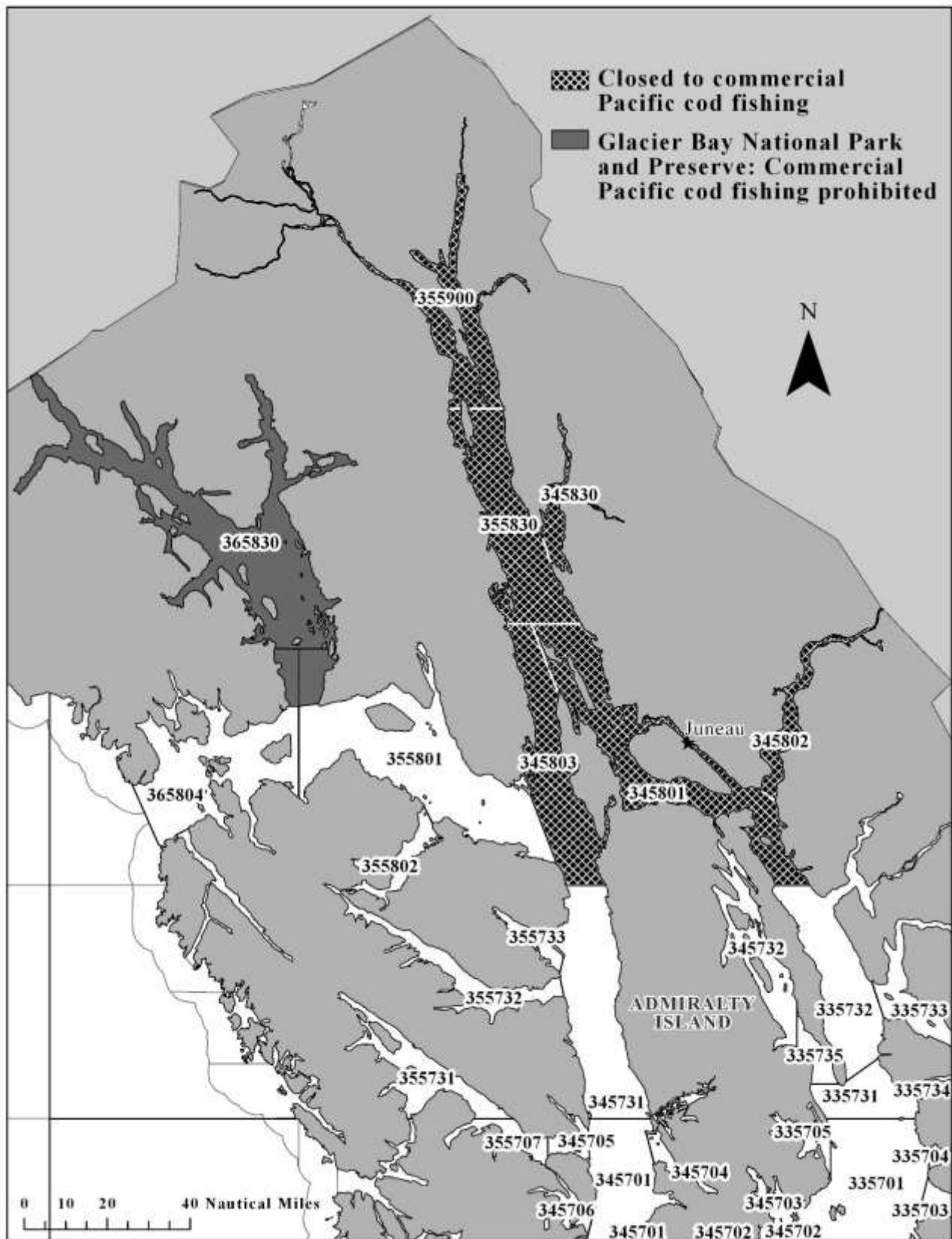


Figure 1.—Directed fishing for Pacific cod closes in groundfish statistical areas 345801, 345802, 345803, 345830, 355830, and 355900 at 11:59 p.m., January 22, 2021.

THIS MAP IS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE ONLY