

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: 03/03/2021*

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**Aleutian Islands State-Waters Sablefish**  
**2021 Guideline Harvest Level and Season Opening Announced**

The state-waters sablefish season in the Aleutian Islands will open at 12:00 noon March 6, 2021 concurrent with the adjacent federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) sablefish season. The 2021 Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery guideline harvest level (GHL) is 894,200 pounds. The state-waters sablefish season will close when the GHL is reached or on December 7, 2021 concurrent with the federal IFQ sablefish season closure.

The Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish registration area includes all state waters west of Scotch Cap Light (164° 44.72' W longitude) and south of Cape Sarichef (54° 36' N latitude). All vessels harvesting sablefish in state waters, including those participating in federal IFQ or Community Development Quota (CDQ) sablefish fisheries, must register for the state-waters sablefish fishery.

Pot, longline, jig, and hand troll are the only legal gear types. Pot gear may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands and Western Districts.

Fishermen are required to submit a state-waters sablefish logbook to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Dutch Harbor office within 7 days of each landing. Fishermen delivering east of Scotch Cap Light must check out of the state-waters sablefish registration area by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor before departing the registration area and may be required to submit to an inspection at a point designated by the local representative of the department.

Sablefish may be taken as bycatch in state waters of the Aleutian Islands district and the western district of the South Alaska Peninsula area. Bycatch may not exceed 1% by weight of the directed groundfish species and directed halibut on board a vessel. All vessels retaining sablefish, even as a bycatch species, must obtain a 2021 interim-use permit card for sablefish from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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