



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2022

CONTACT: Jan Rumble and Elisa Russ
Groundfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 235-8191

Cook Inlet Area
State-Waters Pacific Cod Season
Closes to Pot Vessels Less Than or Equal to 58 Feet
Parallel Pacific Cod Season
Opens to Pot Vessels and Longline Vessels Less than 50 Feet
Closed to Longline Vessels Greater than or Equal to 50 Feet
Emergency Order # 2-GF-H-07-22

The Cook Inlet Area (Area H) state-waters Pacific cod season will close to pot vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length and the parallel Pacific cod season will immediately **open to vessels fishing pot gear and to vessels fishing longline gear that are less than 50 feet in length effective 12:00 noon September 1**. The parallel Pacific cod season **will remain closed to vessels fishing longline gear that are greater than or equal to 50 feet in length**. The parallel season remains open to vessels fishing jig gear.

There is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery. All fish harvested in the state-waters season must be landed prior to participating in the parallel season.

Cook Inlet Area parallel Pacific cod seasons for pot and longline gear are established by emergency order (EO) to coincide with the Pacific cod season dates and gear sectors set by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the adjacent federal Central Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area (CGOA). NMFS announced that hook-and-line (HAL; longline) vessels greater than or equal to 50 feet in length will be prohibited from participating in the federal Pacific cod "B" season to prevent exceeding the 2022 total allowable catch apportioned to those vessels. Parallel seasons will close by EO concurrent with federal "B" season closures when gear sector allocations are achieved.

Fishers are reminded: 1) to obtain a Cook Inlet Area parallel Pacific cod season registration from ADF&G prior to fishing; 2) of the requirement for vessels using pot or longline gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries to have a functioning, activated, NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/enforcement/regional-vessel-monitoring-information> and, 3) to adhere to the federal seabird avoidance measures (SAM) which are required in all longline fisheries for groundfish in the North Gulf District of the Cook Inlet Area. Additional information describing SAM can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/bycatch/seabird-avoidance-gear-and-methods>.

NMFS continues to prosecute the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program. Vessel operators participating in parallel groundfish and/or directed halibut fisheries are encouraged to become familiar with this federal program. Information on the observer program may be found at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/fisheries-observers/north-pacific-observer-program> or by contacting the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division in Juneau at (907) 586-7228.

Regulation 5AAC 28.350 (b) closes certain waters on the west side of Cook Inlet and within Kachemak Bay (Figure 1) to groundfish pot gear.

Two rookeries within the Cook Inlet Area, Outer (Pye) Island and Sugarloaf Island remain closed to fishing with pot or longline gear during a parallel Pacific cod season to protect Steller sea lions. Waters within three nautical miles (nmi) of these locations are closed to vessel transit and waters within 10 nmi of these locations are closed to fishing with fixed gear via emergency order. Contact NMFS in Kodiak at ph: (907) 481-1780 or consult the NMFS website at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm>.

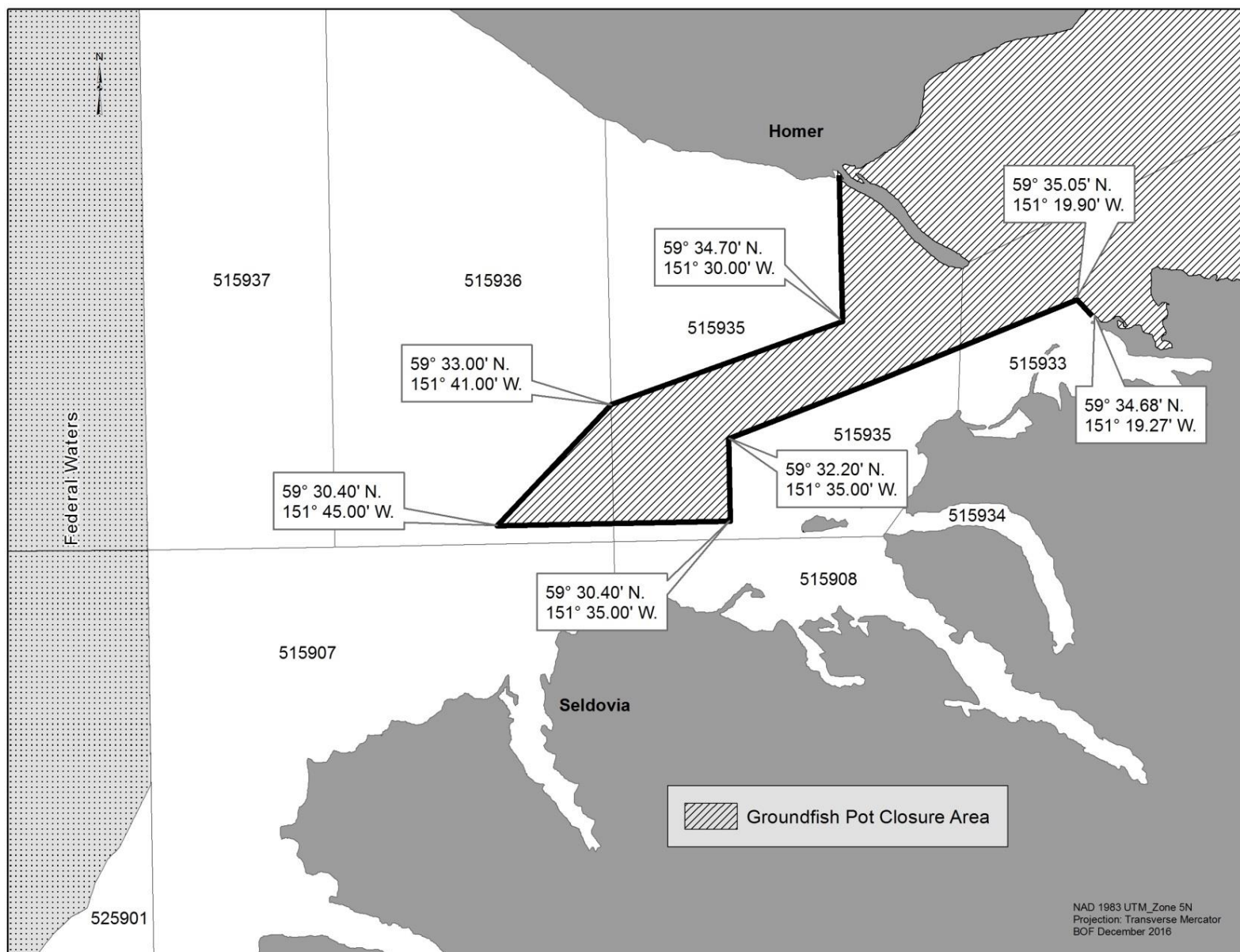


Figure 1. Kachemak Bay groundfish pot closure area with coordinates.

-end-