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Advisory Announcement

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2023 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Guideline Harvest Level Announced

The 2023 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) for pot gear is 38,316,000 pounds and 100,000 pounds for jig gear. The DHS includes state waters east of 170° W long, west of 162° 30' W long, and south of 55° 30' N lat. The DHS south of 53° 06.11' N lat is closed to fishing. The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear will open by advisory announcement 7 days after closure of the initial federal Pacific cod season for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) sector. The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear will open at midnight May 1, 2023.

The DHS is an exclusive registration area for pot gear and nonexclusive for jig gear. A vessel may not be registered for more than one exclusive registration area during a calendar year. However, a vessel may register for one state-waters Pacific cod exclusive registration area and any nonexclusive state-waters Pacific cod registration area within the same year.

Vessels 58 feet or less OAL using pot gear or mechanical jigging machines may participate in DHS state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Gear is limited to 60 groundfish pots or 5 mechanical jigging machines. Buoy identification tags are required for all pot gear and are available at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak for \$1.50 per tag. Buoy tags may be available in other ports as well, please contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor for more information. Cash, check, and credit card are acceptable payment methods for purchasing buoy tags.

During the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Steller sea lion (SSL) protection measures are in effect. SSL closures are as specified for the Bering Sea in Table 5 of 50 CFR part 679, except the SSL haulouts listed in Table 5 for Umnak Island/Cape Aslik at 53° 25.00' N lat, 168° 24.50' W long, Uliaga at 53° 04.00' N lat, 169° 47.00' W long to 53° 05.00' N lat, 169° 46.00' W long, and Kagamil at 53° 02.10' N lat, 169° 41.00' W long are closed to the taking of Pacific cod within three nautical miles. SSL protection measures are also in effect as specified in Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679. SSL protection measures are posted on the NMFS web site at <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e928699f8903a416bed34b9bcaae6903&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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