

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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For Immediate Release: 01/10/2023

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Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening West of 170° W Longitude and Closure of the Parallel Season for All State Waters West of 170° W Longitude

Emergency Order # 4-GF-02-23

National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season for catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet in overall length (OAL) using pot gear effective January 12, 2023 at 12:00 noon. The parallel Pacific cod season will close for all gear types in all state waters of the AIS west of 170° W long on January 16, 2023 at 12:00 noon AKST. The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open in all state waters west of 170° W long at 12:00 noon AKST on January 16, 2023. Beginning 12:00 noon AKST January 16, 2023 the state-waters season will open to vessels 100 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear or jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear.

All Pacific cod caught must be retained. The daily harvest limit for each vessel is 150,000 pounds (round weight) and no more than 150,000 pounds (round weight) of unprocessed Pacific cod may be on board a vessel at any time. All overages will be reported with proceeds surrendered to the state. Bycatch limits applicable in the parallel Pacific cod season will apply during the state-waters Pacific cod season.

Participating vessels and tenders must register with the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office prior to participating in the state-waters season. The AIS state-waters season is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. Fishermen must deliver all Pacific cod onboard prior to participating in the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season. Fishermen may not participate in federal and state-waters seasons concurrently. Open and unbaited groundfish pots may be stored on the fishing grounds in waters greater than 25 fathoms for seven days prior to the start of the state-waters season.

Reporting requirements will be provided at the time of registration. Reports will be taken by telephone (907-581-1239), text/WhatsApp (907-512-7234), or email (dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov).

During the 2023 AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, current Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no fishing zones, no transit areas, and the Seguam foraging area except that the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC 28.647(g)(1), (2), and (3)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates are located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS website: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e928699f8903a416bed34b9bcaae6903&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5>.

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

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