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**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: 03/03/2023***

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**Announcing Regulatory Changes to the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict  
State-Waters Pacific Cod Fishery**

At the October 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage, the board adopted regulations changing legal vessel sizes, alternating the opening of all waters of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod fishery, and limiting harvest of larger pot vessels. These new regulations will become effective on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Changes to the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.647) are as follows: the Adak section will open January 1 for nonpelagic trawl gear and mechanical jigging gear no more than 60 feet overall length (OAL), pot gear no more than 100 feet OAL, and longline gear no more than 58 feet OAL. All waters of the AIS will open February 1 at noon Alaska time or 4 days after the BSAI parallel "A" season for the catcher-vessel greater than or equal to 60 feet in overall length (OAL) pot gear fishery closes, whichever occurs first, for nonpelagic trawl gear and mechanical jigging gear no more than 60 feet OAL, pot gear no more than 100 feet OAL, and longline gear no more than 58 feet OAL. Additionally, the fishing season for vessels over 60 feet OAL using pot gear shall close when 25% of the guideline harvest level (GHL) has been taken by those vessels or on December 31, whichever occurs first.

If at any time after March 15, it is determined that the GHL for Pacific cod will not be achieved by December 31, the commissioner may close the fishing season by emergency order and immediately reopen a state-waters season during which the following may be implemented to increase the harvest rate in an attempt to reach the GHL: remove the 150,000 round pound daily harvest level, designate the fishery as a nonexclusive registration area, remove the 25 percent harvest limit for pot gear vessels greater than 60 feet OAL, allow for nonpelagic trawl vessels up to 100 feet OAL to participate, allow for pot gear vessels up to 125 feet OAL to participate.

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

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