

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Aleutian Islands State-Waters Sablefish Season Opening Announced

The state-waters sablefish season in the Aleutian Islands will open at 12:00 noon March 10, 2023 concurrent with the adjacent federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) sablefish season. The state-waters sablefish season will close when the GHL is reached or on December 7, 2023 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 2023 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.

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