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## **Advisory Announcement**

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### **Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening for Large Vessels Emergency Order 4-GF-08-23**

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open in all state waters west of 170° W long to commercial fishing at 12:00 noon AKDT on March 15, 2023 for vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using mechanical jigging machines, and 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. Effective 11:59pm AKDT on March 25, all waters of the AIS will close for vessels over 100 feet OAL using pot gear and over 60 feet OAL using trawl gear. All groundfish pots must be open and unbaited at the time of the closure. Following the closure, open and unbaited pots may be stored at depth for up to seven days. After seven days, all groundfish pots must be removed from the water or stored open and unbaited in waters 25 fathoms or less in depth.

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 proceeds from overages will be 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. 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. The AIS state-waters season is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

During the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, current Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no fishing zones, no transit areas, and the Segum 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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