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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: 03/24/2023

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Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod
Season Reopening with Rescinded Vessel Lengths and Exclusivity
Emergency Order # 4-GF-12-23

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod season will close at 11:59 pm on March 25, 2023, to allow for new regulations to take effect. The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod season will immediately reopen 12:00 am March 26, 2023, for vessels 125 feet or less overall length (OAL) using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less using nonpelagic trawl gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear, as a non-exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. Additionally, the 25 percent harvest limit for pot vessels greater than 60 feet OAL has been removed.

Harvest limits will remain in effect at this time. 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.

Fishermen transitioning between a federal or parallel Pacific cod fishery and a state-waters Pacific cod fishery must deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod on board prior to participating in or exiting the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod season. Open and unbaited groundfish pots may be stored on the fishing grounds in waters greater than 25 fathoms for seven days prior to the reopening of the state-waters season.

Vessels currently participating in the 2023 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod season can continue to fish. First time participants will need to register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office in Dutch Harbor.

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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