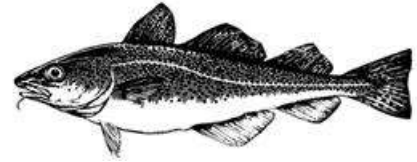


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



Cora Campbell, Commissioner

Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Charles L. Trebesch, BSAI Assistant Area Management Biologist
Heather Fitch, BSAI Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Area Office
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

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**2014 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS DISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD
GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL AND FISHERY OPENING ANNOUNCED**

The 2014 guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 17,863,874 pounds. The GHL is apportioned 70 percent in the A season (prior to June 10), and 30 percent for the B season (beginning June 10). Unharvested A season GHL may be rolled over to the B season; however, the B season GHL will not exceed 70 percent of the total fishery GHL.

		GHL (pounds)
A Season	prior to June 10	12,504,712
B Season	beginning June 10	5,359,162
TOTAL:		17,863,874

Beginning January 1, 2014, the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery will open between 175° W long and 178° W long to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using trawl, pot, and jig gear, and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. During a state-waters Pacific cod fishery, the Steller sea lion Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prior to January 1, 2011 will be in effect, including the Seguam Foraging Area (5 AAC 28.647 (g)(1)). Steller sea lion closures for Pacific cod are located in Table 5 to 50 CFR part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004), posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/fr75865.pdf> and Table 12 to 50 CFR part 679 updated through January 2011, and posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm>.

Excluding waters from 175° W long to 178° W long, state waters west of 170° W long will open January 1 under parallel Pacific cod rules with current NMFS Steller sea lion protection measures consistent with the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives issued by NMFS effective January 1, 2011. These closures are located in Table 5 and 12 to 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS web site at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm> or available from NMFS

offices in Alaska. Opening of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery east of 175° W long and west of 178° W long will be announced in a subsequent news release.

The Aleutian Islands coral garden protection areas and Aleutian Islands habitat conservation area closures (5 AAC 39.167(a)(1) and (2)) are in effect during both parallel and state-waters seasons.

Vessel operators transitioning between the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and a federal or parallel fishery must deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod on board prior to participating in or exiting the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Additionally, vessels must notify the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Dutch Harbor prior to entering or exiting the state-waters fishery. Vessel operators can contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor by telephone at (907) 581-1239 or via e-mail at dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov.

The state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Aleutian Islands District is a non-exclusive vessel registration area. Vessels must register for the fishery with ADF&G prior to participating. Vessel operators are required to obtain an interim-use permit card for miscellaneous finfish from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission before vessel registration.

The daily harvest limit of Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters season for each vessel is 150,000 pounds round weight, with a maximum of 150,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel at any time. A person may not have more processed fish on board the vessel than the round weight equivalent of fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets during the Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod season. All Pacific cod caught must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to the department, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.