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 DUTCH HARBOR SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL ANNOUNCED

The 2014 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is **17,863,874** pounds. The DHS is comprised of the state waters of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area east of 167° W long and west of 164° W long and south of 55° 30' N lat. The DHS state-waters season will open seven days after closure of the initial Pacific cod season for the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel less than 60 feet in overall length sector. A subsequent news release will announce the opening of the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season.

Vessels participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet in overall length, and only to vessels using pot gear. Vessels may not operate more than 60 pots and buoy identification tags are required. Buoy tags will be available for purchase at a cost of \$2.00 per tag at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak or may be obtained through local processors.

During the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season, current National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Steller sea lion protection measures will be in effect. These sea lion closures are located in Table 5 and 12 to 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS web site at <u>http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm</u> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska.

Vessel operators must obtain a DHS state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration prior to participating in the state-waters fishery. The DHS is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. A vessel may not register in more than one state-waters Pacific cod exclusive registration area during a calendar year. However, a vessel may register for one state-waters Pacific cod exclusive registration area and a non-exclusive state-waters Pacific cod registration area. A separate registration is required to participate in the parallel Pacific cod fishery.

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