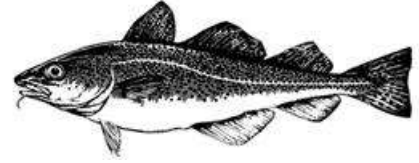


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**DUTCH HARBOR STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING
and CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL SEASON
Emergency Order # 4-GF-02-14**

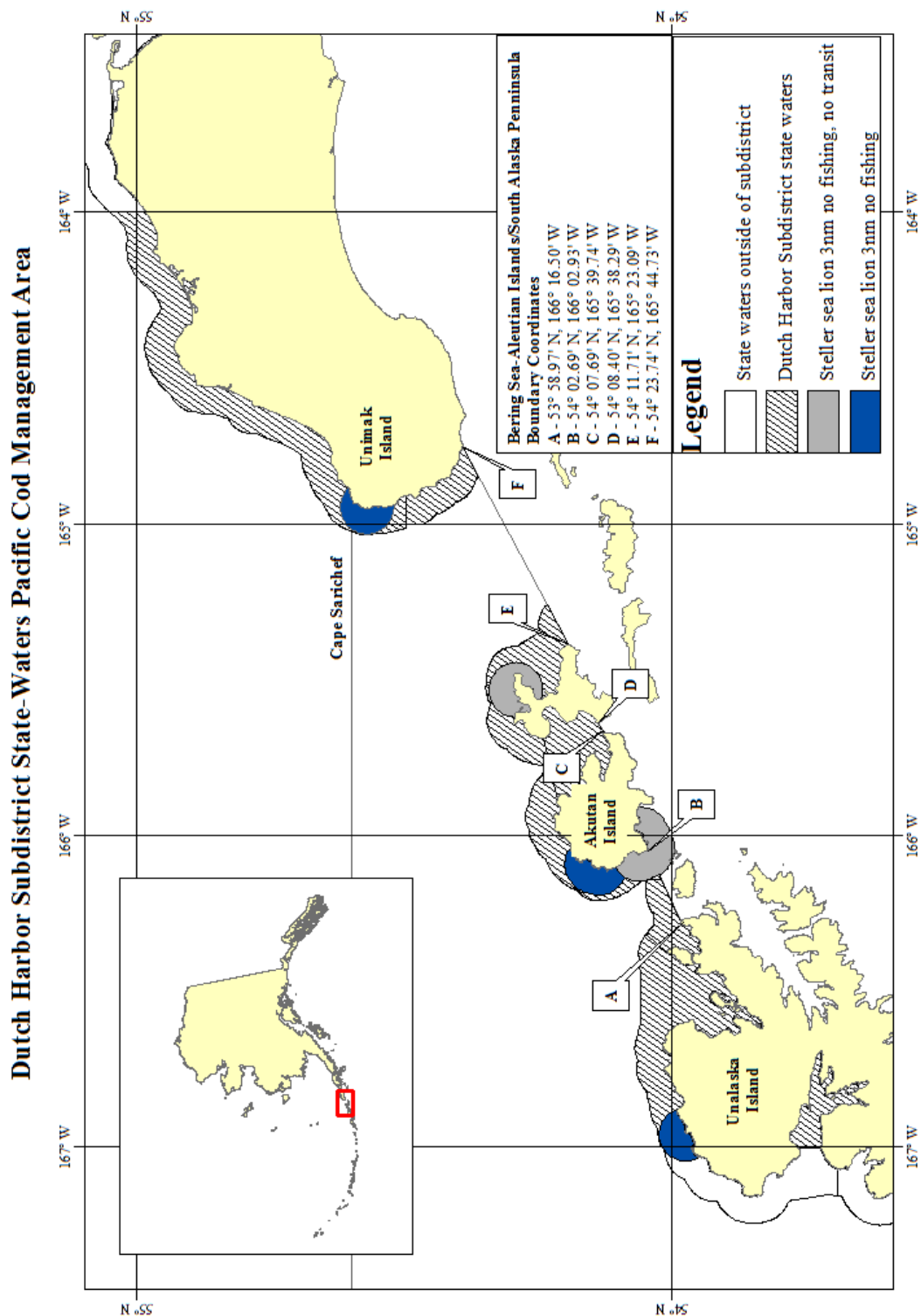
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has announced closure of the initial federal Pacific cod season for catcher vessels less than 60 feet in overall length using hook-and-line/pot gear in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands area effective at noon on (Tuesday) February 4, 2014. Therefore, the parallel Pacific cod season will close to vessels using pot gear that are 58 feet or less in overall length, and the Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod season will open for vessels 58 feet or less in overall length using pot gear at noon on (Tuesday) February 11, 2014 in state waters from 164° to 167° W long, south of 55° 30' N lat.

Vessel operators must obtain an exclusive Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration and buoy tags prior to participating in the state-waters season. Buoy tags are available for purchase through Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and through ADF&G personnel at Trident Seafoods in Akutan. Seven days prior to the start of the state-waters season pots may be stored unbaited with doors secured open in waters greater than 25 fathoms deep. During the seven days following the state-waters season opening, vessels registered for the state-waters season may transport or store gear in excess of 60 pots in waters 25 fathoms or less without buoy tags.

Vessel operators are reminded that NMFS Steller sea lion protection measures will be in effect during the state-waters season and are shown in the map below. Closures are listed in Tables 5 and 12 to 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS web site at: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm>.

Fishermen must report daily harvest and effort to the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor. Requirements for daily reporting will be provided at the time of registration. Vessel operators 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 Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod season.

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

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