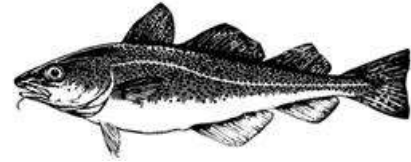


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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Date Issued: 02/25/2015

**Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod
State-Waters Season Opening for all State Waters West of 170° W longitude
and
Parallel Season Closing for all State Waters West of 170° W longitude**

Emergency Order # 4-GF-05-15

The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season will open in all state waters west of 170° W long to commercial fishing at 12:00 noon on March 3, 2015. The parallel Pacific cod season will close for all gear types in all state waters of the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W long on March 3, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opened January 1, 2015 between 175° W long and 178° W long. Beginning 12:00 noon March 3, the state-waters season will expand to include all state waters west of 170° W long and will be open to vessels 125 feet or less overall length (OAL) using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline and jig gear.

Harvest to date in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is confidential; however, more than 12 million pounds are available.

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 of unprocessed Pacific cod may be on board a vessel at any time. A trip limit overage must be immediately reported to the Dutch Harbor Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office. Bycatch limits applicable in the parallel Pacific cod season will apply during the state-waters Pacific cod season.

Fishermen, tender operators, and processors, must register with the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office prior to participating in the state-waters season. Fishermen registered for the parallel Pacific cod season must complete a nonexclusive registration for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season. **Fishermen may not participate in federal and state-waters seasons**

concurrently. Before entering or exiting the state-waters season, fishermen must deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel and must check in or check out with the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office.

Fisherman must report harvest to ADF&G on a daily basis unless otherwise instructed. Reports for the prior 24 hours (midnight to midnight) of fishing must be received by ADF&G in Dutch Harbor between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. every day. Reports will be taken by telephone (907-581-1239), fax (907-581-1572), email (dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov), or satellite dispatch (1234). Processors are asked to assist with vessel catch reporting if needed.

NMFS Steller sea lion closures in place prior to 2011 will be in effect during the state-waters Pacific cod season. Steller sea lion closures are located in Table 5 to 50 CFR part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004), posted on the NMFS website <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm> and Table 12 to 50 CFR part 679 (73 FR 76136, January, 2011). The Aleutian Islands habitat conservation area, Seguam foraging area, and coral garden closures are also in effect.

For further information, contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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