

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



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Date Issued: 7/29/16

**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
COOK INLET AREA WEATHERVANE SCALLOP SEASON OPENS
EO # 2-SF-H-04-16**

The commercial weathervane scallop season in waters of the Cook Inlet Area Kamishak District located north of 59° 18.50' N. lat. will open August 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 10,000 pounds of scallop meats, which is the lower bound of the guideline harvest range (GHR) of 10,000–20,000 pounds allowed to open the fishery (5AAC 38.330). Crab bycatch levels are 30 king and 3,933 Tanner crabs.

In May 2015, a biennial assessment of Kamishak District scallops occurred in the north bed exclusively. Survey results showed a slight increase in scallop abundance in the northern portion of the district and an age structure that included both older and younger scallops. Based on biomass estimates, a GHL of 10,000 pounds will be available for harvest and result in a harvest rate of approximately 5%. Survey results showed a concentration of smaller scallops in the southern portion of the north bed. Therefore, the southern portion of the north bed will be closed to conserve younger scallops. In addition, the entire southern bed will be closed for the season (Figure 1).

Prior to fishing, qualified individuals must obtain a scallop area registration and logbook from the ADF&G office in Homer. Management of the fishery will be based upon fishery performance, scallop catch composition, and crab bycatch levels. Regulation 5 AAC 38.227 establishes catch reporting requirements, check-in and check-out procedures for each trip, shell sample collection, and accommodation of a department observer. The third-party contract observer requirement is waived for this fishery provided that participants accommodate an ADF&G observer when requested. Continuation of the observer waiver will depend on compliance with fishery management measures described in regulation.

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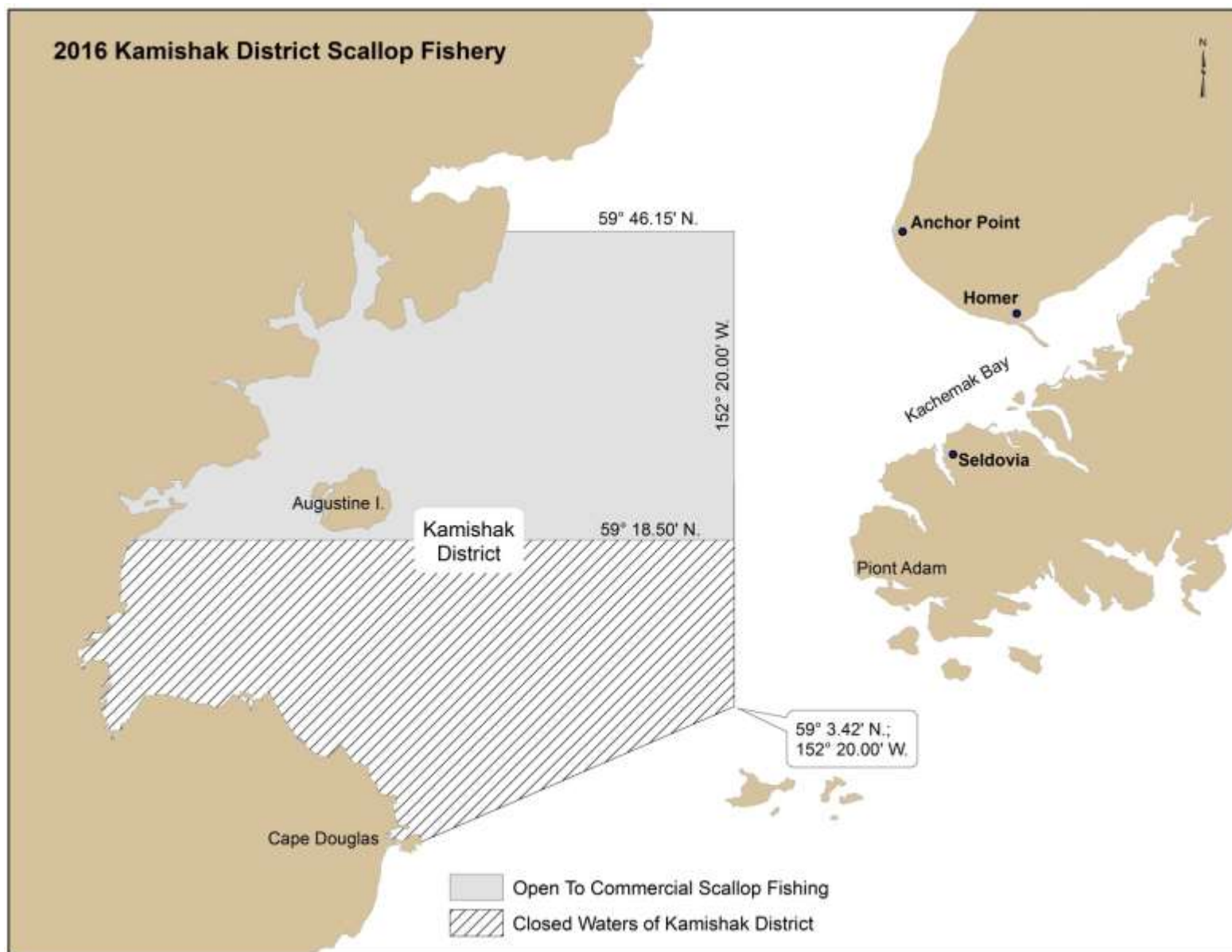


Figure 1. Kamishak district commercial scallop fishery open and closed areas for 2016.