

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

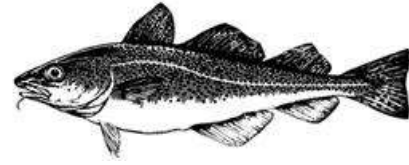
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner

Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Miranda Westphal, 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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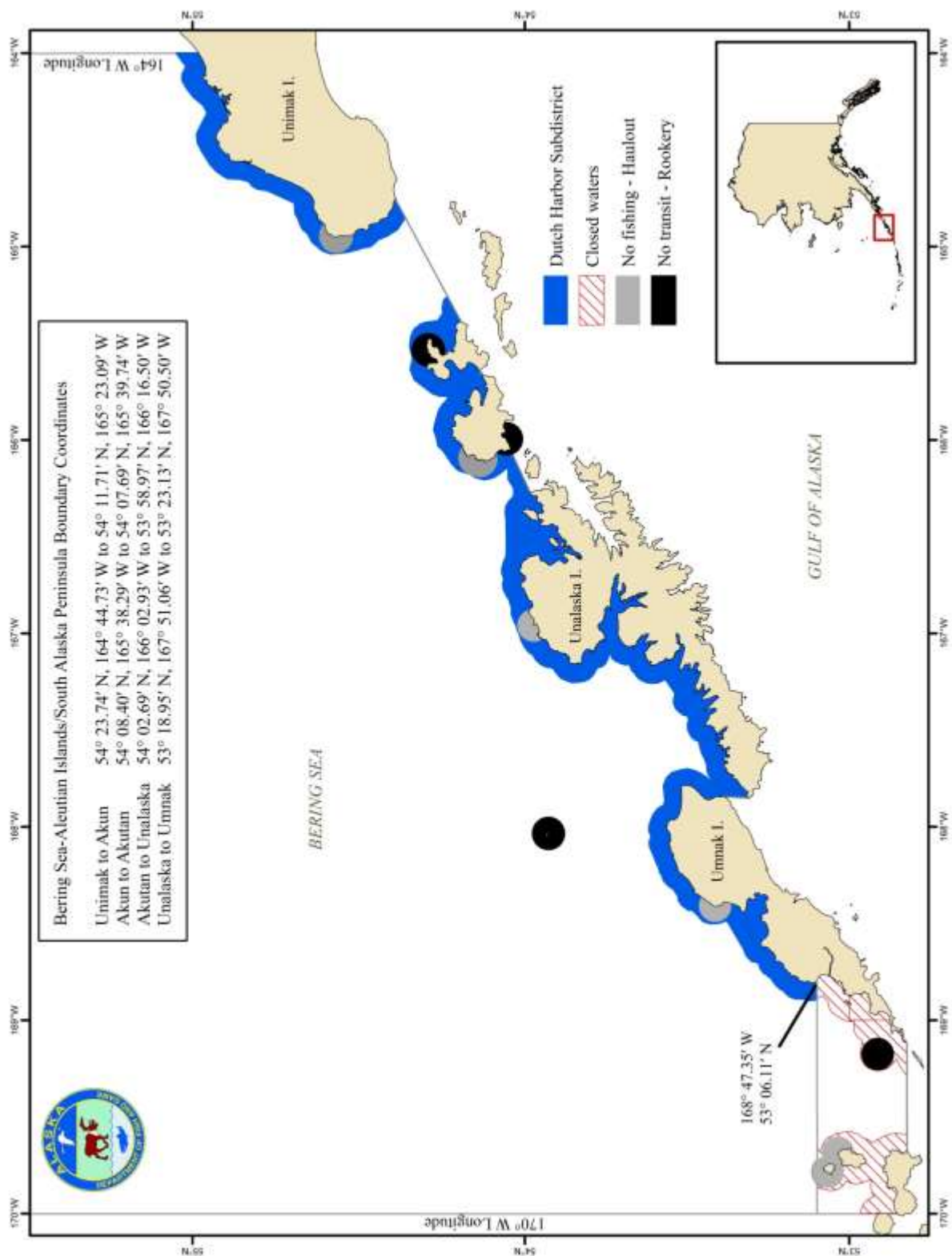
DUTCH HARBOR SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING and CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL SEASON Emergency Order # 4-GF-02-17

National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season for catcher vessels less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) using hook-and-line or pot gear effective 12:00 noon February 2, 2017. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open for vessels 58 feet or less OAL using groundfish pot gear at 12:00 noon February 9, 2017. When the state-waters Pacific cod season is open, state waters are closed to pot vessels fishing in parallel Pacific cod pot fisheries (including CDQ) that are less than 58 feet in OAL. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod during the state-waters season.

No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel during the state-waters season. Fishermen must obtain a DHS state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration and buoy tags prior to participating. Buoy tags are available for purchase at a cost of \$2.00 per tag through Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and through ADF&G personnel in Akutan. Inside state waters, open and unbaited pots may be stored at any depth for the 7 days prior to the start of the DHS season.

Reporting requirements will be provided at the time of registration. Fishermen transitioning between a federal or parallel Pacific cod fishery and a state-waters Pacific cod fishery must deliver all Pacific cod on board prior to participating in the Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod season.

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



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

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