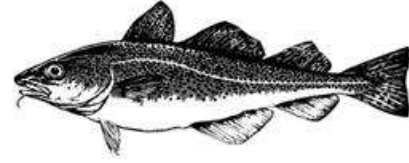


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



Sam Cotten, Commissioner

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**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD
OPENING FOR ALL STATE WATERS WEST OF 170° W LONGITUDE
and
CLOSURE OF PARALLEL SEASON WEST OF 170° W LONGITUDE
Emergency Order # 4-GF-03-17**

The parallel Pacific cod season will close for all gear types in all state waters of the AIS west of 170° W long on February 23, 2017 at 12:00 noon. The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open in all state waters west of 170° W long to commercial fishing at 12:00 noon on February 27, 2017.

The AIS state-waters Pacific cod season opened in the Adak Section (between 175° W long and 178° W long) on January 1, 2017 for vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL) using non-pelagic trawl, jig, or groundfish pot gear types, and longline vessels 58 feet or less OAL. Beginning 12:00 noon February 27, 2017 the state-waters season will expand to include all state waters west of 170° W long for vessels 125 feet or less OAL using groundfish pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline or jig gear. AIS is a non-exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

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. Trip limit overages 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, motherships, and processors must register with the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office prior to participating in the state-waters season. **Fishermen may not participate in federal and state-waters seasons concurrently.**

Fisherman must report harvest to ADF&G on a daily basis unless an alternative reporting period is specified. Inseason harvest 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.

During the 2017 AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, current Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no fishing zones, no transit areas, and the Seguam foraging area except that the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC 28.647(g)(1),(2),and (3)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates are located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS website <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

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