

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:  
Jan Rumble, Area Groundfish Management Biologist  
Elisa Russ, Assistant Area Management Biologist

Homer Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Phone: (907) 235-8191  
Fax: (907) 235-2448

Date Issued: 08/24/2017

## FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PACIFIC COD FISHERY STATE-WATERS SEASON CLOSURES TO POT AND LONGLINE GEAR PARALLEL SEASON OPENS TO POT AND LONGLINE GEAR EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-08-17

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E **state-waters Pacific cod season will close to pot and longline gear effective 12:00 noon September 1, 2017 and the parallel Pacific cod season will immediately open** to pot and longline gear. The parallel season is coordinated with the federal "B" season and gear sector allocations for Pacific cod in the Central Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area (CGOA), and season closures for pot gear and longline gear will coincide with the federal closures of the pot gear sector and the less than 50 foot hook and line (<50' HAL) gear sector in the adjacent federal CGOA, respectively. Fishermen participating in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery with pot or longline gear must deliver their harvest within 24 hours of the closure and prior to participating in the parallel season.

Fishermen are reminded that they **must possess a valid ADF&G PWS 2017 parallel Pacific cod season registration** in order to participate in the fishery and a vessel may only be registered to fish with a single gear type. Participants using pot or longline gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries must have a functioning, NMFS approved, vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/cwm>. In addition, seabird avoidance measures (SAM) must be used in all longline fisheries for groundfish in state waters except the Inside District of PWS, more information at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/pr/seabird-avoidance-gear>.

**Steller Sea Lion rookery closures:** Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS (Figure 1). For specific regulatory language contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780 or <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm>.

**Bycatch limits:** Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for the Prince William Sound Management Area parallel Pacific cod fishery are set as follows by Emergency Orders 2-GF-E-01-17, as round weight of bycatch as a percentage of the round weight of the target species:

- (1) may retain 5 percent skate species in aggregate;
- (2) may retain 15 percent shark species in aggregate (includes spiny dogfish);

- (3) may retain 20 percent lingcod (after July 1).
- (4) may retain all pollock;
- (5) must retain all rockfish (and thornyhead) as required by 5 AAC 28.265 and any rockfish in excess of 5 percent in aggregate must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket;
  - (A) no rockfish landing or combination of landings may exceed the 5-day trip limit of 3,000 pounds
- (6) may retain 20 percent other groundfish in aggregate;

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

-continued-

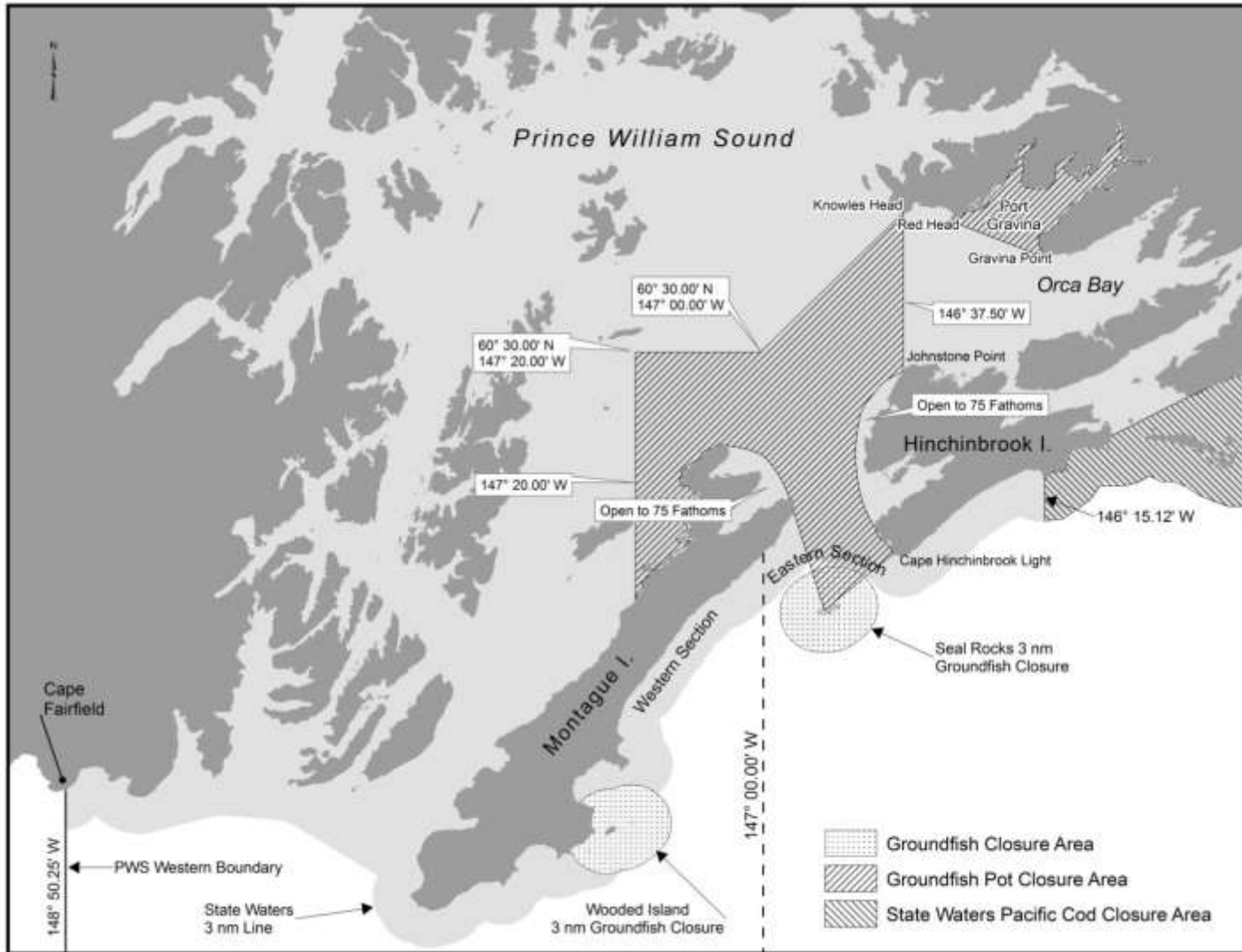


Figure 1. Prince William Sound closures to groundfish pot gear, groundfish fishing, and to the state-waters Pacific cod season.

-end-