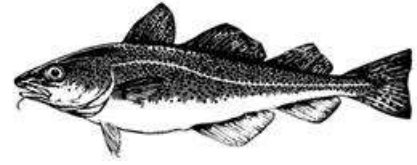


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD
2018 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL AND FISHERY OPENING ANNOUNCED**

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod fishery 2018 guideline harvest level (GHL) is 12,798,000 pounds. The AIS includes all state waters of the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W long.

The AIS state-waters Pacific cod season opens January 1 in the Adak Section (175° W long to 178° W long) to vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), except for vessels operating longline gear which may be no more than 58 feet OAL.

State waters of the AIS east and west of the Adak Section (east of 175° W long and west of 178° W long) will open January 1 under parallel fishery regulations with harvest accruing toward federal total allowable catch (TAC).

All state waters of the AIS will open to the state-waters Pacific cod season 4 days after the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands catcher-vessel trawl Pacific cod A season closes, or 4 days after the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea non-CDQ Pacific cod season is closed, whichever occurs first. However, if the state-waters Pacific cod season has not opened in all state waters by March 14, the parallel Pacific cod fishery will close by emergency order at noon March 14 and the state-waters Pacific cod fishery will open at noon March 15. The AIS state-waters Pacific cod season will close when the GHL is reached. When all state waters of the AIS are open, pot gear vessels may be no longer than 125 feet OAL, nonpelagic trawl vessels may be no more than 100 feet OAL, and mechanical jig and longline gear vessels may be no longer than 58 feet OAL. The Aleutian Islands coral habitat protection area and the Aleutian Islands habitat conservation area (5 AAC 39.167(a)(1) and (2); 50 C.F.R. 679.22) are in effect during both the parallel and state-waters seasons.

The state-waters Pacific cod season Steller sea lion protection measures are located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR Part 679 available on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) website:

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<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs> except the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is closed to taking Pacific cod only within 3 nautical miles.

Parallel Pacific cod fisheries Steller sea lion protection measures, except as noted below, will mirror federal Steller sea lion closures. During the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Adak Section of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (175° W long to 178° W long) the State of Alaska has adopted federal regulations implementing Steller sea lion protection measures located in Table 5 of 50 CFR Part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004) posted on the NMFS website <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/finalrules/fr75865.pdf> except the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock at 51° 46.70' N lat, 177° 20.72' W long, is closed to the taking of Pacific cod only within 3 nautical miles. Vessels using trawl, pot, mechanical jigging machine, or hand troll gear in the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Adak Section are restricted to 60 feet or less OAL; vessels using longline gear may not exceed 58 feet OAL.

The AIS state-waters Pacific cod fishery is a nonexclusive vessel registration area. Vessels must be registered for the state-waters fishery prior to participating. Before registering, fishermen must obtain an interim-use permit card for miscellaneous finfish from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. Fishermen entering or exiting the state-waters Pacific cod fishery must notify the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Dutch Harbor and deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod on board.

The daily harvest limit of Pacific cod in the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season is 150,000 pounds round fish weight per vessel, with a maximum of 150,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board a vessel at any time. All Pacific cod caught must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to ADF&G, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state. For more information, contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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