

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA
2018 STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD JIG SEASON
OPENS JANUARY 1
EMERGENCY ORDERS # 2-GF-E-04-18**

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) state-waters Pacific cod season for vessels using jig gear will open January 1, 2018. Fishermen are reminded that all fish must be landed within 24 hours following the closure of the 2017 parallel season and prior to participating in the 2018 state-waters season.

On December 15, 2017, the department announced the opening of the PWS parallel Pacific cod season to jig gear on January 1, 2018 by emergency order (EO) #2-GF-E-02-18 to coincide with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) opening of the initial ("A") Pacific cod season in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area (CGOA). On December 27, 2017 NMFS announced that directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear will be prohibited in the CGOA effective 0000 hours January 1, 2018 through 1200 hours June 10, 2018, effectively closing the federal Pacific cod initial "A" season to jig gear. Therefore, the PWS state-waters season will open to vessels using jig gear on January 1.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the PWS state-waters Pacific cod season is 992,080 lb, allocated 85% (843,268 lb) to longline gear and 15% (148,812 lb) to jig and pot gear combined.

Fishermen are reminded to obtain a PWS 2018 Pacific cod state-waters season registration from ADF&G prior to fishing.

During a state-waters season, Pacific cod may be taken in waters of the PWS Area (5 AAC 28.205) except for those waters of the Outside District east of 146° 15.12' W. long. (the latitude of Hook Point) (5 AAC 28.267. (e) (2)). Waters closed to the use of groundfish pot gear are defined in 5 AAC 28.250. Consult the current regulation booklet and attached map (Figure 1) prior to fishing.

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>.

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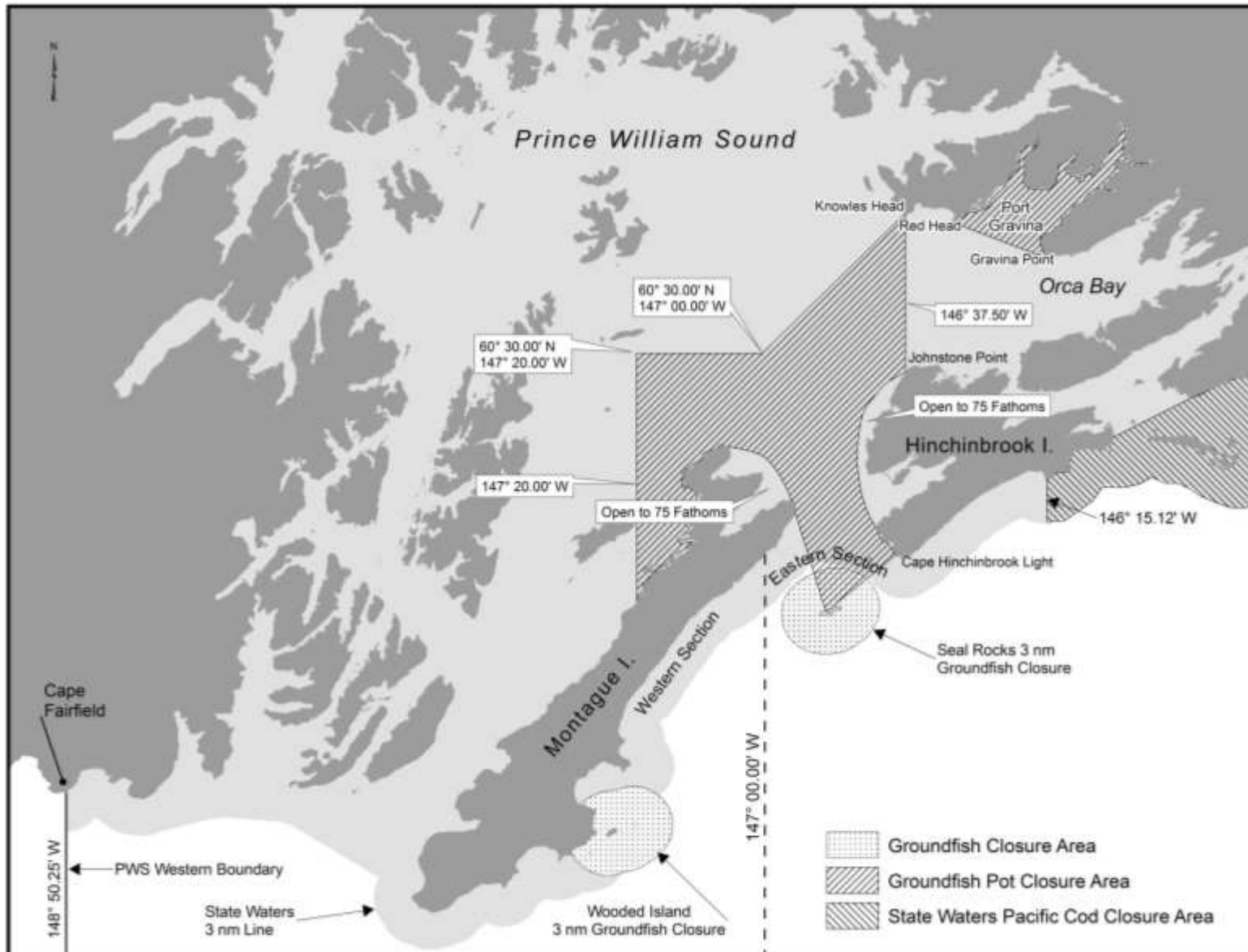


Figure 1. Prince William Sound Area closures to groundfish pot gear, groundfish fishing, and to the state-waters Pacific cod season.

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