

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
COOK INLET AREA
PACIFIC COD FISHERY
PARALLEL SEASON CLOSES TO POT GEAR
STATE-WATERS SEASON OPENS TO POT GEAR
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-H-04-18**

The Cook Inlet Area Pacific cod **parallel season will close to vessels using pot gear at 12:00 noon on February 14**. This coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the Pacific cod pot gear sector in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area (CGOA).

There is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery. All fish harvested in the parallel season must be landed prior to participating in the state-waters season.

Groundfish pot storage provisions (5 AAC 28.332) allow groundfish pot gear to be stored in state waters for up to five days following the closure of a groundfish season to pot gear provided all bait and bait containers are removed and all doors are secured open at the time of closure. After the five day period has elapsed, no groundfish pot storage is permitted in state waters.

The Cook Inlet Area Pacific cod **state-waters season will open to vessels using pot gear at 12:00 noon on February 15**. In accordance with the Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.367), the state-waters season for pot gear shall open 24 hours following the closure of the initial federal season in the CGOA for pot gear.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Cook Inlet Area Pacific cod state-waters season is 671,141 lb, with 85% or 570,470 lb allocated to vessels using pot gear and 15% or 100,671 lb allocated to vessels using jig gear. In addition, only 25% of the GHL or 167,785 lb may be harvested by vessels using pot gear that are greater than 58 feet in length.

Area registration for the state-waters season is exclusive, no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel, and each pot must display a buoy identification tag. Buoy tags and vessel registrations may be obtained from department offices in Homer, Cordova, and Kodiak or by appointment in Seward (contact Homer ADF&G office). A vessel may not participate in a Pacific cod state-waters season and any other Pacific cod season at the same time.

Steller Sea Lion Rookery closures: The department has closed fishing in waters adjacent to two sea lion rookeries in the Cook Inlet Area. Sugarloaf Island (in the Barren Islands) and Outer (Pye) Island are closed to directed Pacific cod fishing with pot gear within 10 nautical miles of the specified locations and closed to vessel transit within three nautical miles. Contact ADF&G in Homer, NMFS in Kodiak (ph: 481-1780), or consult the NMFS website at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tab15.pdf> for exact locations of these closure areas.

Pot fishing closure areas: Some areas are closed by regulation 5AAC 28.350 to fishing with groundfish pot gear (Figure 1). Check the regulation book or contact Homer ADF&G prior to fishing.

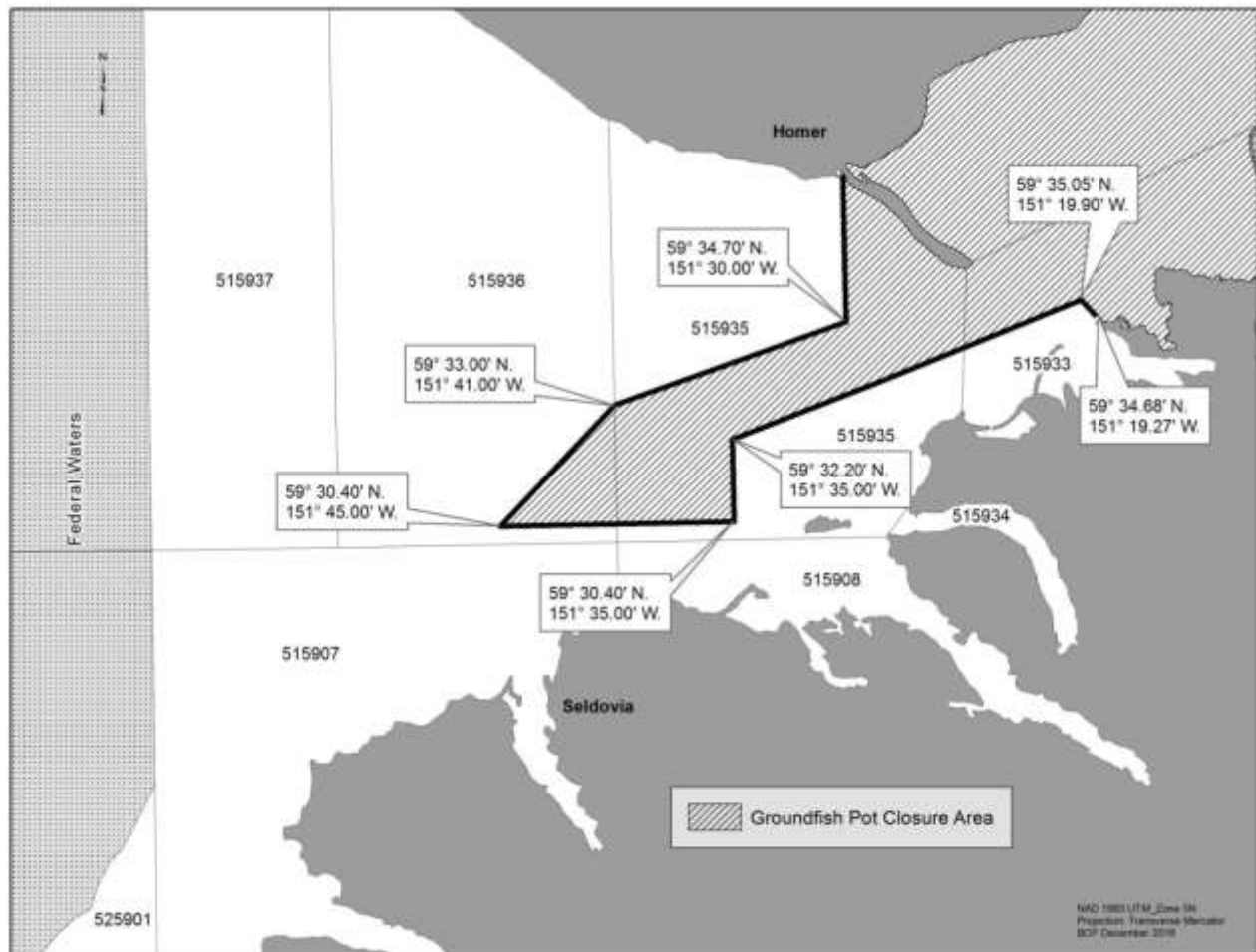


Figure 1. Kachemak Bay groundfish pot closure area with coordinates.

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