
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: February 14, 2018
Time: 2:45 p.m.

2018 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED PACIFIC COD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the directed fishery for Pacific cod will close at 11:59 p.m., Saturday, February 17, 2018, in all waters of Cross Sound, Icy Strait, Port Frederick, Lynn Canal, Berners Bay, those waters of northern Chatham Strait that are north of 58°00.00' N. latitude, and in the waters of Gastineau Channel and Stephens Passage that are west of a line from Point Bishop to Point Arden (Figure 1). This area is defined as all waters of groundfish statistical areas 365804, 355801, 355802, 345803, 355830, 345830, 355900, and a portion of 345801.

The guideline harvest range for Pacific cod in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts combined is 750,000 – 1,250,000 round pounds. Over 58,000 round pounds of Pacific cod have been taken from the northern section of the NSEI area during the 2017/2018 seasonal fishing period; this constitutes a 78% decrease in harvest from the 2016/2017 fishing period and an 80% decrease in Pacific cod harvest from the 5-year seasonal average. The decline in Southeast Alaska harvest suggests that this area may be experiencing a period of reduced biomass, similar to that seen in the Gulf of Alaska. This area closure is announced to distribute effort and harvest throughout the remaining open areas of NSEI and SSEI. The area will re-open to directed fishing for Pacific cod on July 1, 2018.

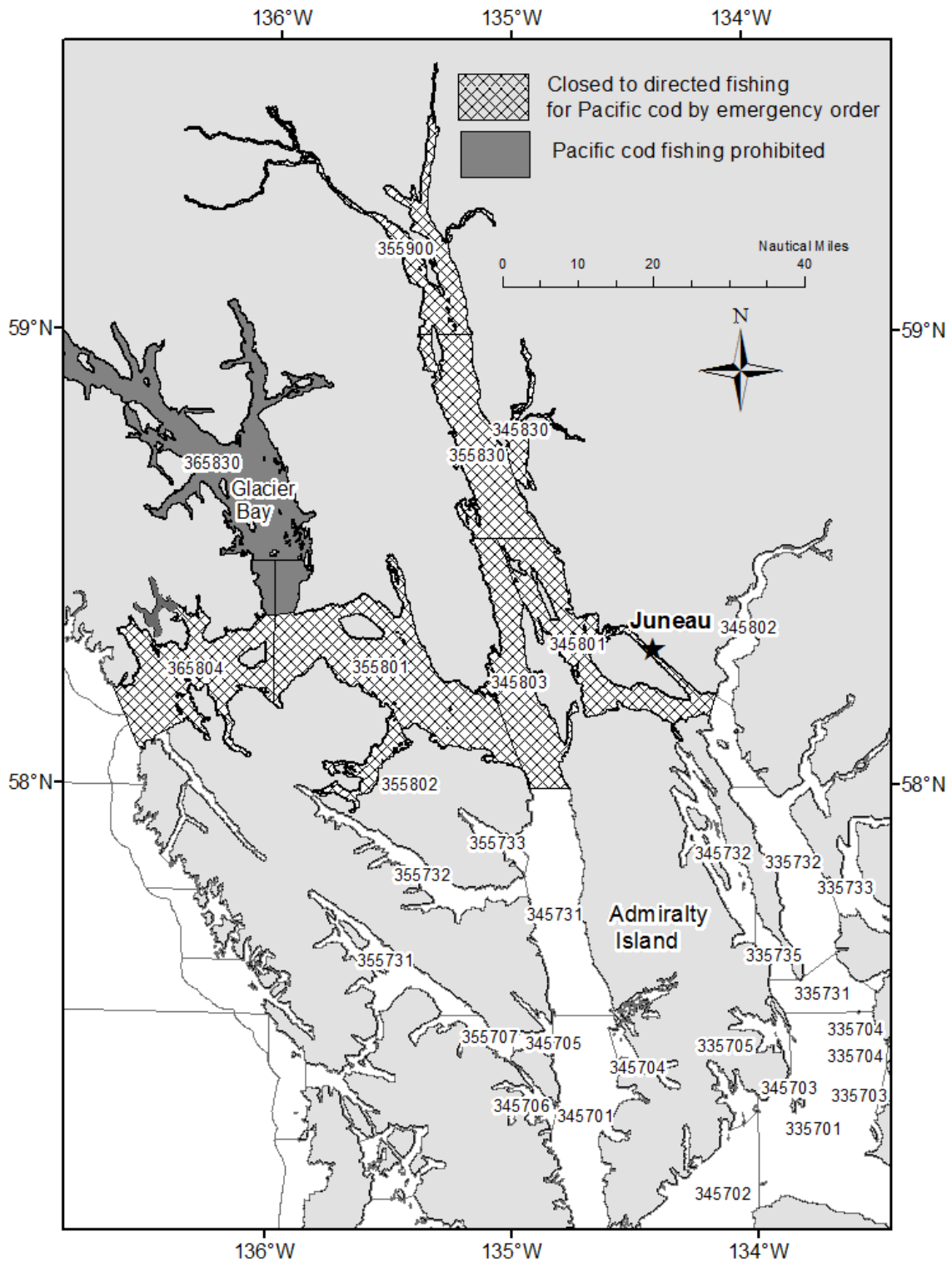
This closure affects the directed Pacific cod fishery only. Pacific cod taken as bycatch in other fisheries may be retained in these areas as permitted by established bycatch allowances.

Pacific cod catches will be closely monitored and fishermen are advised that additional area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and the National Weather Service broadcast. Area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1G0518.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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<i>ADF&G</i>	<i>225-5195</i>	<i>772-3801</i>	<i>874-3822</i>	<i>747-6688</i>	<i>465-4250</i>	<i>766-2830</i>	<i>784-3255</i>
<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>	<i>766-2533</i>	<i>784-3220</i>



This map is for general reference only.

Figure 1. Directed fishing for Pacific cod closes in groundfish statistical areas 365804, 355801, 355802, 345803, 345830, 355900, and a portion of 345801 at 11:59 p.m., February 17, 2018.